

**CoNGO 28TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE (RESCOM)**

**FIRST REPORT TO CoNGO MEMBERS**

1. In accordance with CoNGO Rule 49, the CoNGO Board in late 2024 appointed “five

persons who shall constitute the Resolutions Committee”. These are Wolfgang Beiglboeck, Dorothy Davis, Manjit Dosanjh, Tageldin Hamad, with Cyril Ritchie as the RESCOM Chair. It is noted that two of these five have served on previous RESCOMS, and all are representatives of the Board members. This was judged to be of importance to ensure good knowledge of the rules and precedent. The five members are drawn from the three CoNGO/UN Centres.

2. The procedure and timing for submitting draft resolutions for consideration by a General Assembly session are covered in Rules 50 and 76. By the time of the deadline (“up to three months before the General Assembly,” i.e., July 27, 2025), the only resolutions submitted all concerned amendments to the CoNGO Rules. These are summarized below, and the full draft texts are attached.

3. ATTACHMENT A: Following the 2021 CoNGO General Assembly and lessons learnt concerning the application of the existing Rules, the Assembly officers submitted five draft amendments. The first three are technical clarifications. The other two concern the complicated deadlines for submission of candidatures for the Presidency and the Board. In due course these five amendments were submitted to the Board, which approved them. Consequently, RESCOM , in accordance with Rule 50, forwards these five draft resolutions to GA 28, with the recommendation that they be adopted.

4. ATTACHMENTS B, C, D: In May 2025 the CoNGO President submitted three draft resolutions to a CoNGO Board meeting in connection with the preparation of the CoNGO Summit of NGO Committees scheduled for June 24. These drafts proposed various changes to the role and status of CoNGO Substantive Committees, essentially the creation of a ‘Council of NGO Substantive Committee Chairs’, and the direct election by that Council of 3 members to the CoNGO Board.

5. In that CoNGO Board session there was opposition to these drafts, and the President stated that he would submit them at the CoNGO Summit of NGO Committees in June. This was done, and there was again opposition from the floor. The President stated the drafts would go forward for discussion at GA 28.

6. In these circumstances of contestation, RESCOM, in accordance with Rule 50, forwards these texts to GA 28 with the recommendation that they be discussed.

7. Further information may be sought from the RESCOM Chair: Cyril Ritchie, firstvp@ngocongo.org

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**GA 28: RESCOM Report - Attachment A**

**Amendments to CoNGO Rules to be proposed to the 28th General Assembly 2025**

***Rule 4, line 3: Replace “Department of Public Information” by “Department of Global Communications”***

**Explanation:** This change of name is currently explained by a Footnote to the Rules. It is more logical to place an updating amendment in the text of the Rules.

***Rule 15, line 1: Replace “six (6)” by “three (3)”***

Explanation: Particularly with (partial) electronic voting, it is not necessary to take the time to mobilize six persons to oversee what is an entirely simple (and indeed rather rare) procedure. Three would be more than enough.

***Rule 28 c, last line: After “on behalf of NGOs with consultative status with ECOSOC” insert “and of the wider civil society community”***

Explanation: CoNGO Rule 2 already makes clear that CoNGO is not restricted to NGO with ECOSOC status. In recent years - and notably in relation to UN Summits and World Conferences - CoNGO has “provided leadership aimed at the most effective articulation and harmonization of the collective work” of NGOs and Civil Society Organizations linked with many parts of the UN System. The amendment is intended to reflect that

enhanced role, which is a service benefitting broader civil society communities. The amendment has no effect on the structure of CoNGO, which remains centred on the ECOSOC relationship.

***Rule 67 (linked with 68): In line 7, replace “up to the day prior to the penultimate day of the General Assembly” by “up to 24 hours prior to the scheduled opening of the General Assembly”.***

***Rule 68 (linked with Rule 67): In line 2, replace “until noon on the second day of the General Assembly” by “until 24 hours prior to the scheduled opening of the General Assembly”.***

Explanation for both 67 and 68: The GA27 Nominations Committee (NC) experienced, as have previous NCs, the quirks, complications and incomprehensions arising from the references to “the penultimate day” and “the second day” of the Assembly. The procedure, with two different deadlines, required re-editing and re-issuing the NC reports ad seriatim.

In addition, it has often been remarked that since all Full Members have at least five months in which to submit nominations, there is no justification for a flurry of last-minute nomination activity as the Assembly enters its substantive business. As one member remarked “If you don’t know until the Assembly is already in session

whether or not you want to be a candidate, you probably shouldn’t be a candidate !”

Further, all candidacies require screening of CoNGO finance records to ensure that the proposers and the candidate are in good standing, as required by Rule 69. The current deadlines impose an unnecessary last-minute burden on CoNGO officials in that regard.

Therefore the amendments set the two nomination deadlines 24 hours before the opening of the Assembly, thus ensuring a more orderly process between then and the actual elections.

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**GA 28: RESCOM Report - Attachment B**

**(Proposed changes are in bold type)**

**COMMITTEES ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES:**

38. Committees may be established under the auspices of the Conference in order to

promote and facilitate collective work among NGOs on the substantive issues related to

programmes, policies and activities of the United Nations system. These committees

may organize activities which provide opportunities for NGOs to debate such issues, to

articulate their views, to advocate positions with respect to UN resolutions or

programmes, and to mobilize public opinion.

39. Committees may be established either by the General Assembly or by the Board at

the request of twenty (20) or more Members, which shall specify whether the committee

is to be a standing or fixed-term committee. When a decision has been taken to

establish such a committee, the Board shall notify the Members of the Conference and

invite all Members to an initial meeting.

40. Committees of NGOs in consultative status which have already been established

outside the framework of the Conference may be accepted by the decision of the Board

as committees of the Conference provided they agree to accept the Rules applying to

committees of the Conference. Such acceptance by the Board may, at its discretion, be

to either full or affiliated substantive committee status.

***(A Council of NGO Committee Chairs shall be established to serve as a platform for consultation, collaboration, and cooperation among them. They shall represent the interests of NGO committees at the CoNGO Board by electing three representatives from their number, as defined in Rule # \_\_.)***

***41. All substantive committees shall report regularly to the Board. The Board Standing Committee on Substantive Committees will oversee this reporting process.***

42. Committees set up under the auspices of the Conference are required to establish

rules and procedures for membership, for voting, for periodic election of officers among

the members of the Committee who are representatives of organizations in consultative

statues with ECOSOC, for the keeping of meeting records, for the handling of monies

which will include an annual financial report to be made available to its membership and

to the Board, and for the conduct of their work, in a manner consistent with the Rules of

the Conference, and with guidelines provided to them by the Board.

43. Committees so formed shall not act nor claim to act, in the name of the Conference,

or of the Board.

44. Committees having similar interests shall maintain close contact with each other,

and shall coordinate their activities and programmes.

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**GA 28: RESCOM Report - Attachment C**

**(Proposed changes are in bold type)**

ELECTIONS:

65. Not less than twelve (12) months before an ordinary session of the General

Assembly, the Board shall appoint seven persons to serve as a Nominations Committee, of whom not more than three (3) shall be representatives of members of the Board. No member of the Nominations Committee shall be a candidate in the elections.

66. The Nominations Committee shall invite nominations, within a fixed deadline, for

election to the Board from the Members of the Conference. Nominations must be

proposed by a Member organization and seconded by at least two (2) other Member

organizations. The written consent of the nominated organization must be received by

the Nominations Committee not later than the deadline for nominations. No Member

organization may propose or second a total of more than twenty (20) ***(or “seventeen***

***(17)”)*** organizations. If an organization does propose or second a total of more than

***twenty (20) (or seventeen (17) organizations,*** all its proposed nominations or

secondings shall be invalid. The Nominations Committee shall prepare a list in

alphabetical order of the organizations which have been validly nominated.

67. The list of nominations, showing for each nominee the names of proposing and

seconding Members, shall be circulated to all Members at least five (5) months prior to

the General Assembly, and the Nominations Committee shall at the same time draw

attention to the interests which appear to them to be under-represented or not

represented at all among nominations received by the due date. The Nominations

Committee may accept further nominations made to rectify such imbalance up to the

day prior to the penultimate day of the General Assembly. If nominations for the office of

President have been received, the Nominations Committee shall also circulate them to

the Members.

68. Nominations for the post of President may be submitted by a Member to the

Nominations Committee until noon on the second day of the General Assembly. Each

nomination must be supported by at least two (2) other Members.

69. Only members who have paid their annual membership fees by the end of the

previous financial year may be nominated, nominate, or support candidacies.

***Organizations that joined in the current fiscal year will have these rights and privileges of membership.***

70. At the General Assembly, upon expiry of the deadlines provided for in paragraphs

67and 68 the Nominations Committee shall prepare two (2) separate lists: one list shall

contain the names of candidates to the office of President and shall state, for each

candidate, his or her names, the Member organization to which he or she belongs and

the names of the Members which nominate or support him or her; the other list dealing

with candidates to the Board shall state, for each candidate organization, its name and

those of the Members which nominate or support it. These two lists shall be drawn up in

alphabetical order, starting with a name drawn by lot.

71. The elections shall be held by secret ballot. For the Board, the twenty (***20) (or***

***seventeen (17)*** Members ***who*** have received the highest number of votes shall be

declared to have been elected.

***(The three members from the Council of NGO Committee Chairs shall be elected***

***from among their number through a clear and transparent process.)***

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**GA 28: RESCOM Report - Attachment D**

**(Proposed changes are in bold type)**

**THE BOARD:**

***VERSION 1***

16. The Board of the Conference (henceforth referred to as “the Board”)

shall consist of a President, who shall serve in a personal capacity, and

twenty (20) Members. The President and the Members shall serve until the

end of the following session of the General Assembly. ***The~~y~~ 17 members***

***of the board elected by the General Assembly*** shall be eligible for re-

election, subject to the provision that their mandate shall be limited to

two consecutive periods. ***The term of the three members elected by***

***the Council of NGO Substantive Committees shall be governed by the***

***process instituted by the Council.***

***(Three of the 20 members of the CoNGO board shall be elected by the***

***Council of NGO Substantive Committee Chairs from among their***

***number. These members must represent three different UN centers***

***at any given meeting. Their membership on the board shall be***

***governed exclusively by this provision.)***

17. Of the twenty (20) members elected of the board, 17 shall be

elected by the Assembly. They shall appoint representatives to the

Board. Three board members shall be elected by the Council of NGO

Substantive Committee Chairs from among their number.

***VERSION 2***

16. The Board of the Conference (henceforth referred to as “the Board”) shall consist of a President, who shall serve in a personal capacity, and twenty **(23)** Members. The President and the Members shall serve until the end of the following session of the General Assembly. They shall be eligible for re-election, subject to the provision that their mandate shall be limited to two consecutive periods. ***The term of the three members elected by the Council of NGO Substantive Committees shall be governed by the process instituted by the Council.***

***(Three of the 23 members of the CoNGO board shall be elected by the Council of NGO Substantive Committee Chairs from among their number. These members must represent three different UN centers at any given meeting. Their membership on the board shall be governed exclusively by this provision.)***

17 ***Of ~~T~~the twenty-three******~~20~~******(23) members*** ~~elected~~ ***of the board****,* ***20 shall be elected by the Assembly.******They*** shall appoint representatives to the Board. ***Three board members shall be elected by the Council of NGO Substantive Committee Chairs from among their number.***

18. Apart from the President, the Board shall, at its meeting immediately after the close of the General Assembly, appoint from among the ***17 (or 20)*** members of the Board:

a. A First Vice President and a Second Vice President who shall have their respective offices at one of the other UN Headquarters than that of the President, and who shall serve in a personal capacity;

b. Up to two (2) other Member Organizations of the Board to serve as Vice-Presidents-at-Large; consideration will be given to geographic locations not already represented by officers per (a) above;

c. Two (2) Members to act as Secretary and Treasurer of the Conference respectively. If not already Members of the Board, they shall be co-opted by the Board.