



**UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM**

**A  
GUIDE  
FOR  
NGOS**

- CONTACTS
- SERVICES
- RESOURCES
- PUBLICATIONS  
& OTHER MATERIALS



**NGLS**

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**UNITED NATIONS  
NON-GOVERNMENTAL  
LIAISON SERVICE**

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NGLS is an interagency programme of the United Nations that promotes cooperation between the UN system and non-governmental organizations on economic and development issues.

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## INTRODUCTION

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In recent years the United Nations system has witnessed a dramatic upsurge in the involvement in its work of a diverse range of non-governmental organizations of civil society. While this has been most visible in the recent cycle of world conferences, there are many areas of UN endeavour and activities in which non-governmental organizations participate to an unprecedented degree. The areas include international development cooperation, human rights, women's equality, disarmament, peacekeeping, humanitarian emergencies and refugees, and activities include policy setting, standards and normative work, operational activities, and advocacy and information work.

This tenth edition of *The United Nations System: A Guide for NGOs* is designed to assist non-governmental organizations in gaining access to the UN system by providing contact points and information on the type of materials and services available from the agencies, programmes and funds of the UN system. The directory is not intended to be an exhaustive guide to all possibilities for UN-NGO collaboration. While its focus remains development information, education and policy advocacy work, it also aims to provide northern, southern and international NGOs engaged in such work with useful entry points to the multilateral system.

Suggestions on how we might make future editions of the directory more useful are always welcome. They should be addressed to:

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Tony Hill  
Coordinator  
January 2003



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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

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ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations
BDP	Bureau for Development Policy, UNDP
BOT	Build-Operate-Transfer
CASA	Coordinating Action on Small Arms
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
CCW	Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects
CD	Conference on Disarmament
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CICP	Centre for International Crime Prevention
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COMTRADE	Commodity Trade Statistics
COP	Conference of Parties
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development
CSOPP	Civil Society Organization and Participation Programme, UNDP
DDA	Department for Disarmament Affairs
DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
DGAACS	Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services
DPA	Department of Political Affairs
DPI	Department of Public Information
DPKO	Department of Peacekeeping Operations
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GAINS	Gender Awareness Information and Networking System
GRIPP	Global Review and Inventory of Population Policies
GSP	Generalized System of Preferences
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICJ	International Court of Justice
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
IDA	International Development Association
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development

IFC	International Finance Corporation
ILO	International Labour Office
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
INFOTERRA	Sources of technical, scientific and decision-oriented information
INSTRAW	International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women
IOM	International Office for Migration
IRPTC	International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals
ISDR	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
ITC	International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
LAS	League of Arab States
LDC	Least Developed Country
LDF	Local Development Fund
MBS	Monthly Bulletin of Statistics
MIGA	Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
NGLS	United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OAS	Organization of American States
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ODCCP	Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
OSCAL	Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
POPIN	Population Information Network
PRS	Poverty Reduction Strategies
PSAs	Public Service Announcements
TCDC	Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries
TOKTEN	Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDCP	United Nations International Drug Control Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

UNECA	Economic Commission for Africa
UNECE	Economic Commission for Europe
UN ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UN ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UN ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
UNESIS	United Nations Economic and Social Information System
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNIC	United Nations Information Centre
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNICRI	United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute
UNIDIR	United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNISTAR	Short-term advisory resources for private and public enterprise
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNITeS	United Nations Information Technology Service (online volunteering)
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOG	United Nations Office at Geneva
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNOV	United Nations Office at Vienna
UNRISD	United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
UNSO/UNDP	Office To Combat Desertification and Drought
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WFP	World Food Programme
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WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization