

UNITED NATIONS REPORT

Brenda Smith

UN REPRESENTATIVE



World Federation of Methodist & Uniting Church Women

**13th World
Assembly 2016**

Houston, Texas, USA



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**REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS REPRESENTATIVE
BRENDA L. G. SMITH, Ed.D.**



**TO THE 13TH WORLD ASSEMBLY OF THE
WORLD FEDERATION OF METHODIST AND UNITING CHURCH WOMEN**

**Ann M. Connan, WORLD PRESIDENT
Regula Stotz, WORLD VICE PRESIDENT**

AUGUST, 2016

Houston, Texas, USA



REPORT OF THE NGO REPRESENTATIVE

Each year in March, I represent our organization during The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). CSW is a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), dedicated exclusively to gender equality and the advancement of women. It is the principal global policy-making body. Every year, representatives of member states gather at the United Nations Headquarters in New York to evaluate progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and advancement of women worldwide. It is important to note that The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) was established in 1946 by the Economic and Social Council to prepare recommendations and reports for the Council on promoting women's rights in the political, economic, civil, social and educational fields. The Commission also makes recommendations to the Council on urgent problems requiring immediate attention in the field of women's rights. It consists of 45 members elected by the Economic and Social Council for a period of four years. Members, who are appointed by governments, are elected on the following basis: 13 from African states; 11 from Asian states, 4 from Eastern European states, 9 from Latin American and Caribbean states, and 8 from Western European and other states.

Included among the more than 5000 distinguished delegates in 2013 were Matilda Johnson, WFMUCW's West African Area Vice President, from The Gambia, and Murielle Wilhelm, Helen Kim Scholar from Switzerland. It was indeed a privilege to have both Murielle and Matilda in attendance. It was a pleasure for me to welcome them to the U.S. in general, and to New York, in particular. From their accounts, they each enjoyed the CSW experience and met many individuals from around the world. Both Matilda and Murielle played a significant role in the proceedings of the Commission on the Status of Women, both during the side events and the proceedings of the Commission. Matilda made a wonderful presentation at a side event held at the Church Center for the United Nations. The WFMUCW must continue to have representatives attend these significant annual meetings. A copy of the agreed upon conclusions was placed on the website for your review. Thank you, Nicholas, for including this information on our website.



Figure 1 Murielle Wilhelm, Helen Kim Scholar, Chloe Jones, Youth Rep., Brenda Smith UN Rep. at the UN.

Figure 2 Matilda Jonson, President, West Africa Area, presenting at CSW 57 at the Church Center for the United Nations (NY)

During each CSW session over the past five years, our organization has conducted worship services in the Church Center for the United Nations (CCUN). As UN Rep., I extend my appreciation to affiliate members of WFMUCW including the members of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, New York, who planned and executed programs of worship with me during CSW and members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. We really miss the involvement of Mia Adjali, who provided faithful and unwavering service when she was able to do so. Let us continue to keep Mia in our prayers.



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International Community, The National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women (WFMUCW) and the World Council of Churches (WCC) sponsored a **Peace Forum on October 28-30, 2015**.

The **Peace Forum** commemorated the achievements of UNSCR 1325 and participants strategized on strengthening and mobilizing women and men for effective implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda. It also highlighted best practices for implementation with a particular focus on efforts from civil society.

Brenda Smith and Edith Crenshaw with Panelists on October 29, 2016.th



Panelists included (left to right): Martha Kebalo, World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organization Kateryna Levchenko, LaStrada International (Kiev, Ukraine) and Harriett Jane Olson, General Secretary & CEO, United Methodist Women (UMW), Tatiana Dwyer, the UMW executive for global justice and Natalia Khodyreva, an activist, academic and psychologist from St. Petersburg, Russia.

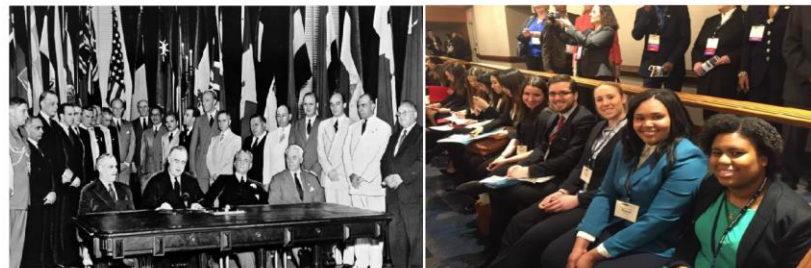


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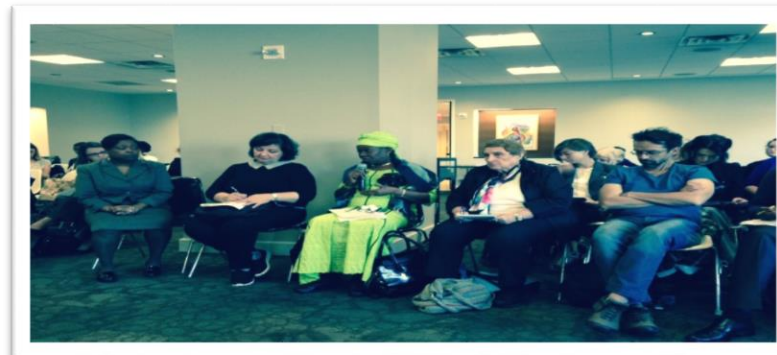
The UN TURNED 70 IN 2015



President Franklin D. Roosevelt Signing the UN Charter in 1945 – Mercy College Students Attending UN's 70th Birthday at the United Nations

"On April 25, 1945, the United Nations Conference on International Organizations convened in San Francisco with 50 nations represented. Three months later, during which time Germany had surrendered, the final Charter of the United Nations was unanimously adopted by the delegates. On June 26, it was signed. The Charter, which consisted of a preamble and 19 chapters divided into 111 articles, called for the U.N. to maintain international peace and security, promote social progress and better standards of life, strengthen international law, and promote the expansion of human rights. The principal organs of the U.N., as specified in the Charter, were the Secretariat, the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the International Court of Justice, and the Trusteeship Council.

On October 24, 1945, the U.N. Charter came into force upon its ratification by the five permanent members of the Security Council and a majority of other signatories. The first U.N. General Assembly, with 51 nations represented, opened in London on January 10, 1946. On October 24, 1949, exactly four years after the United Nations Charter went into effect, the cornerstone was laid for the present United Nations headquarters, located in New York City.



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Since 1945, the Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded more than ten times to the United Nations and its organizations or to individual U.N. officials, most recently to both the organization as a whole and Former Secretary-General Kofi Annan in 2000. The current Secretary General of the United Nations is Ban Ki-Moon." To read more about the UN at 70, go to www.un.org/en/sections/history-united-nations.

In recognition of the UN turning 70 in 2015, many programs and activities were held at the United Nations. In its 70-year history, "eight individuals have served as UN Secretary-General. As noted, "this position is one of great importance that requires the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, and a firm commitment to the purposes and principals of the Charter of the United Nations." Presently, there are 12 candidates – six women and six men (<http://www.un.org/pga/70/sg>). His Excellency Ban Ki-Moon's tenure as Secretary-General will end December 31, 2016.

THE EIGHTH UNA-USA MID-ATLANTIC CONVERENCE AND MEMBERS' DAY

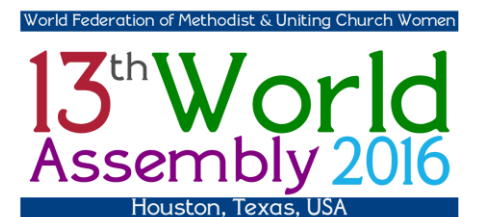
"From Road Blocks to Building Blocks: Global Crises and the Role of the UN" – Friday, February 19, 2016

UNA-USA Members' Day took place in the UN General Assembly Hall on February 19, 2016. Ambassador Susan Power, Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations was the speaker. Panels covered such topics as: Climate Change, Refugees, Global Development Goals, and the Security Council. This was the largest gathering of UN advocates in the United States.

It was reported that this is exactly the kind of dedication the UN needs as it looks to take bold action and create a more sustainable world for us all.



ABOVE: Celebrating the UN at 70: A YEAR FOR BOLD ACTION



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Members with Chris Whatley, Executive Director, UNA-USA on June, 2015 Annual Members and Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC



Participants in the CSW 60 Morning Worship pose with the Rev. Dionne Boissiere, Chaplain of the Church Center for the United Nations (Owned and operated by United Methodist Women) and Brother Ryan Smith, of the Presbyterian Church and Co-Coordinator of Ecumenical Women at the United Nations. Included on the program were members of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion missionaries (AMEZ), African Methodist Episcopal missionaries (AME), representatives from United Methodist Women (UMW), and the UN Youth Representative, Chloe Grimes Jones.

A highlight of my work at the UN was the invitation I received from the Department of Public Information to participate on a panel titled **Mentoring Girls and Boys for Sustainable Communities** held 24 March 2016 United Nations Headquarters.



One of the joys I experienced was the opportunity to see **Pope Francis** when he spoke before the United Nations General Assembly Friday morning, September 25th. We were informed that this was the first

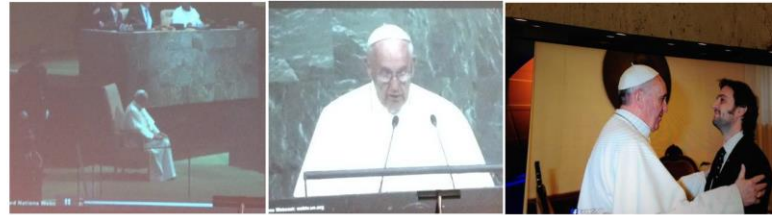


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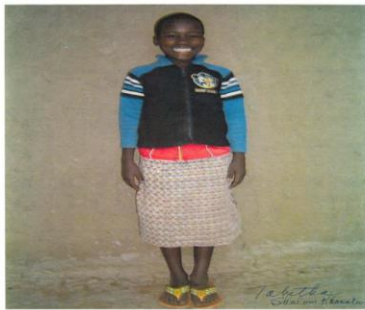
time a Pope has ever spoken at the annual session where all member countries are represented. Unfortunately, I did not have the opportunity to meet him personally, but was able to hear and see him as he addressed the General Assembly.



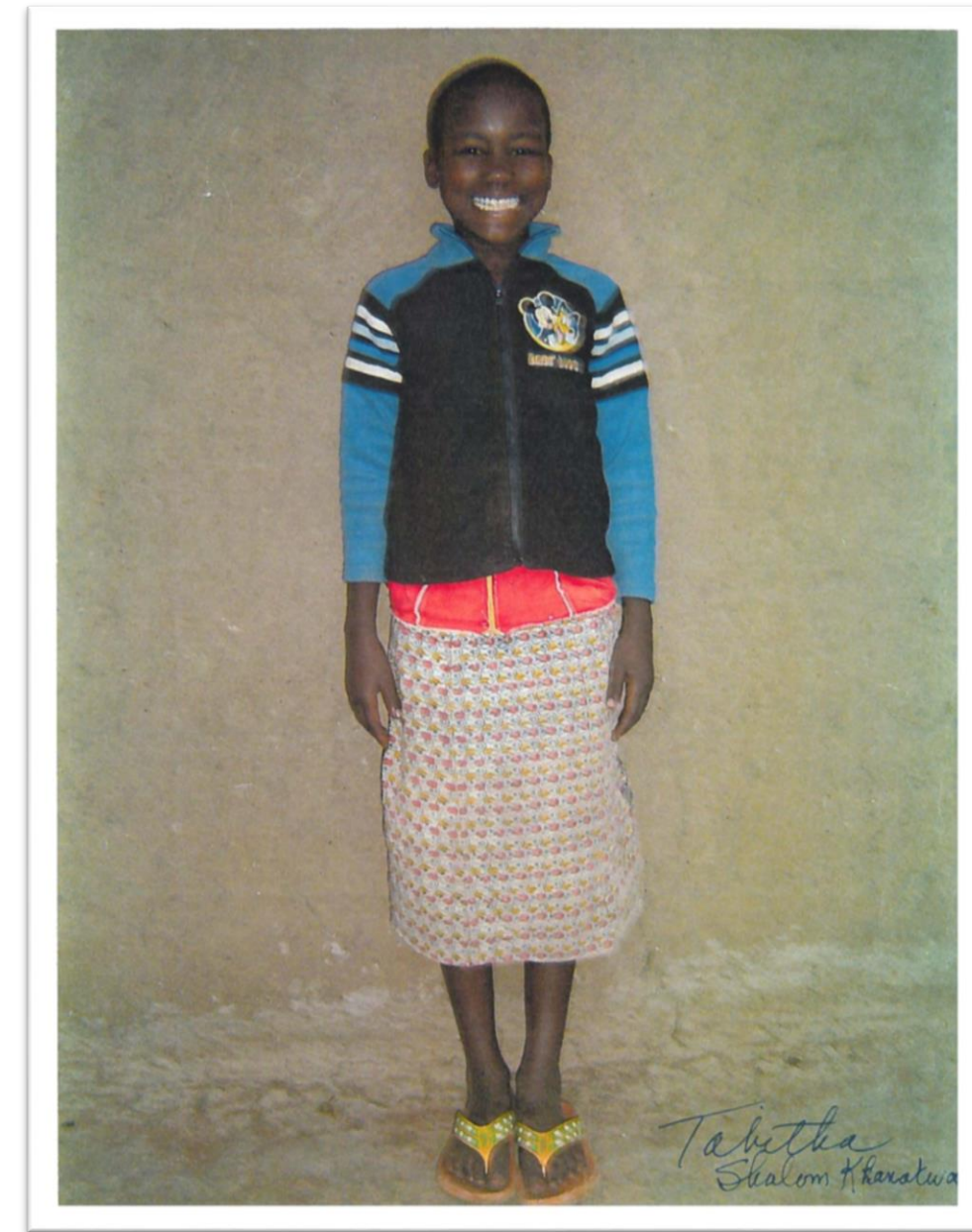
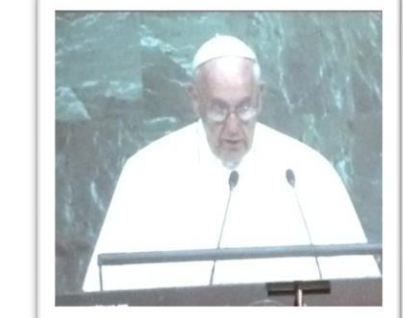
I have the opportunity to support the education of **Tabitha Shalom Khanakwa**, a member of the Guishu Tribe and a resident of the orphanage of the Bushikori Christian Center, located in Mbale Uganda, East Africa.

Bushikori Christian Centre is an indigenous non-governmental organization that sponsors the education of 400 orphans, runs a primary school for 200 disadvantaged children, and houses a health center for 23,000 impoverished Ugandans.

Tabitha's parents were overwhelmed with the number of children under their care, and placed Tabitha in the care of Bushikori. The Founder and President of Sister to Sister: One in the Spirit, a not-for-profit organization of women in New York, adopted the Center and asked if I would provide the financial support needed for Tabitha's yearly education, which I am delighted to do and have done so annually for six years.



Tabitha Shalom Khanakwa
Bushikori Christian Centre
Mbale, Uganda, East Africa



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A Sphere within a Sphere – A Gift from Italy presented to the United Nations by Lamberto Dini, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Italy and unveiled on November 21, 1996, in New York City.

In conclusion, this report is reflective of some of the opportunities that I have enjoyed and from which I have learned so much, while serving as the United Nations Representative for the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women.

Again, I must express my thanks to the World President for this great opportunity. I have enjoyed my involvement with other organizations that have, as their express purpose, to be a voice for and to make a **difference in the lives of the most vulnerable of populations, those who are disadvantaged and disenfranchised.** We must remain committed to serve. We must enter into meaningful dialogue with others, to foster collaborations among our great men and women of faith and civil society to ensure that the needs of deprived persons are being served, demonstrating along this journey that we "know Christ and will make Him known to others who do not know Him."

We must never forget that "to whom much is given, much is required and expected." The hymnist says, "They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love, and that we are one in the spirit and one in the Lord." It is time for us to move from commitment to action while finding better ways to make better lives.

I recommend that we continue our work at the United Nations, and make every attempt to send at least one international delegate to CSW annually; identify Youth Representatives to represent WFMUCW and provide financial support for their travel.

Brenda L. Galloway Smith

UN Representative



- Brenda Smith, UN REPRESENTATIVE

FACTS ABOUT THE UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations:

- Promotes peace and democracy through the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and oversees the second largest deployed military in the world, with more than 120,000 military police, and civilian personnel deployed on 16 peacekeeping missions in places like Liberia, Lebanon and the Central African Republic.
- Provides vital humanitarian assistance, delivers lifesaving aid to millions of people affected by conflict and natural disasters every year. The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) coordinates assistance to more than 36 million refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) worldwide,
- Through the world's largest humanitarian organization, the World Food Program (WFP) provides lifesaving food aid to more than 80 million people in 75 countries.

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FACTS ABOUT THE UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations:

- Provides long-term humanitarian and development assistance to children and mothers, immunization, early childhood development, education, and HIV/AIDS, through the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF).
- Responds to and eliminates outbreaks of infectious diseases, such as Ebola, through the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER), which opened in Accra, Ghana in September, 2014. The World Health Organization (WHO) deployed 838 staff members to the field since the outbreak of Ebola, has set up nearly 1,200 treatment beds and trained over 5,000 doctors and healthcare workers.

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FACTS ABOUT THE UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations:

- Supports global human rights through organizations in North Korea, the Commission of Inquiry (COI) in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.
- Supports global nonproliferation and efforts to combat terrorism.



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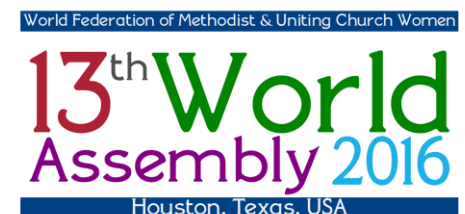
FACTS ABOUT THE UNITED NATIONS

Other Facts You May Not Know About The UN

The United Nations:

- Provides food to 90 million people in 80 countries.
- Vaccinates 58 percent of the world's children, saving 8 million lives a year.
- Assists over 38.7 million refugees and people fleeing war, famine or persecution.
- Works with 193 countries to combat climate change and make development sustainable.
- Keeps peace with 120,000 peacekeepers in 16 operations on 4 continents.
- Fights poverty, helping improve the health and well-being of 420 million rural poor.
- Protects and promotes human rights on site and through some 80 treaties/declarations.
- Mobilizes US\$12.5 billion in humanitarian aid to help people affected by emergencies.
- Uses diplomacy to prevent conflict: assists some 60 countries a year with their elections.
- Promotes maternal health, saving the lives of 30 million women a year.

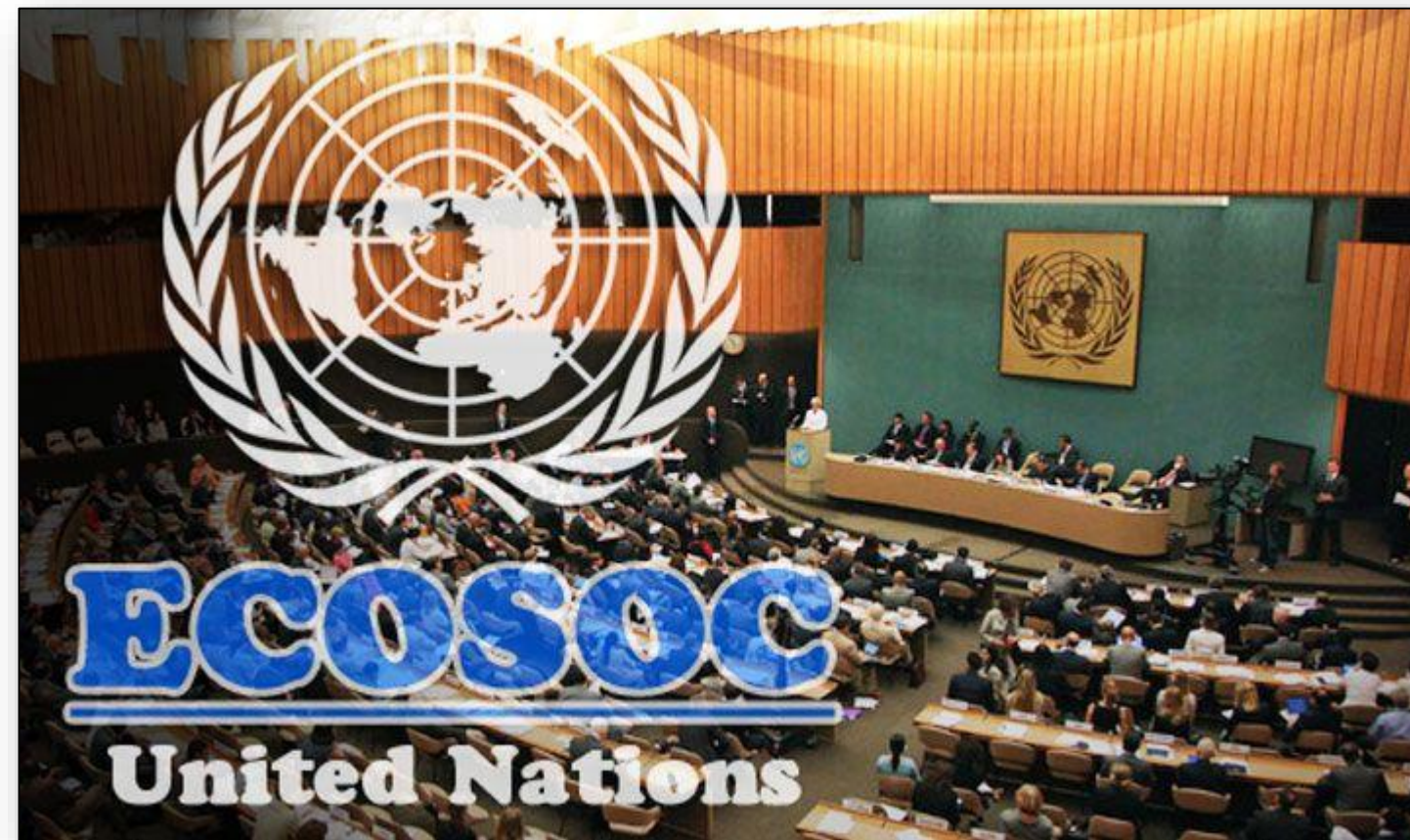
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FACTS ABOUT THE UNITED NATIONS

Non-Governmental Organisations

The number of NGOs in consultative status with the UN has grown over the past sixty years. Currently, there are **4,189 (NGOs)** in active consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and **1,439 NGOs** in consultative status with the Department of Public Information (DPI).



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