



PERMANENT MISSION OF URUGUAY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

New York, April 24th 2017

Dear Ms. Izsák-Ndiaye, Mr. Kaye, Mr. Kiai, Mr. Forst and Mr. Shaheed,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 5 April 2017 in which you expressed concern as to a decision by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations regarding the organization Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) and more broadly on the Committee's working methods.

I take good note of your arguments in support of the work of Christian Solidarity Worldwide. The Economic and Social Council has adopted the report of the 2017 regular session of the Committee on NGOs. With regard of the recommendation not to grant status to CSW, such a recommendation was reverted by the ECOSOC and it was granted the requested status by vote, which may be found in the ECOSOC decision E/2017/L. 16.

I also appreciate your remarks on the working methods of the Committee, in particular the practice of deferral of applications for consultative status and the potential obstacles it creates to civil society engagement with the United Nations and to respect for human rights principles and international instruments related to the right of association.

In this regard, I'm glad to make reference to the ECOSOC Decision E/2017/L. 17 that was adopted on April 19th, which allows that public sessions of the Committee be webcast. This decision will have a significant impact on the work of the Committee, since the civil society as well as the media and broader membership of the UN will be able to witness the way the Committee adopts its decisions and which members oppose recommending consultative status to an NGO based on political motivations instead of respecting the provisions contained in the United Nations Charter and Resolution 1996/31.

As Chair of the Committee on NGOs, I wish to state my willingness to ensure full implementation of the rules contained in ECOSOC resolution 1996/31 which govern the work of the Committee. I also attach great importance to fairness in the way these rules are implemented and the Committee functions overall.

As requested, your letter has been shared with all members of the Committee on NGOs and will be part of the documentation of the resumed session of the Committee to be held in New York from 22 to 31 May 2017.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jorge Dotta

Chair of the Committee on NGO of the ECOSOC