



NEWSRELEASE

DATE: AUGUST 22, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT:

GNP+ receives Special Consultative Status at the United Nations ECOSOC

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The Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (GNP+) is pleased to announce that it has been granted Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations.

According to GNP+ the Special Consultative Status provides an unique opportunity for people living with HIV/AIDS to make their voice heard at UN deliberations.

The Special Consultative Status is an important recognition of the Global Network, our goals and objectives and our way of achieving those goals and objectives.

GNP+ views the Status as a major step towards being involved in the United Nations General Assembly's Special Session on HIV and AIDS (UNGASS) of September 2006. This session will be instrumental in discussing progress on the 2001 UN Declaration of Commitment which covered areas as Human Rights, Stigma and Discrimination, Access to Treatment and the GIPA principle.

The fact that GNP+ is not the only HIV/AIDS organization which has been granted such status, only enlarges the possibilities for PLWHA movement to make an unified stand at the UN in general and at UNGASS specifically.

Background

The United Nations has been allowing non-governmental organizations to take a role in formal UN deliberations since 1946. Article 71 of the UN Charter opened the door providing for suitable arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations. The consultative relationship with ECOSOC is governed today by ECOSOC resolution 1996/31, which outlines the eligibility requirements for consultative status, rights and obligations of NGOs in consultative status, procedures for the withdrawal or suspension of consultative status, the role and functions of the ECOSOC Committee on NGOs, and the responsibilities of the UN Secretariat in supporting the consultative relationship.

Consultative status is granted by ECOSOC upon recommendation of the ECOSOC Committee on NGOs, which is comprised of 19 Member States.

Special consultative status such as GNP+ has now received is granted to NGOs which have a special competence in, and are concerned specifically with, only a few of the fields of activity covered by the ECOSOC.

ENDS

NOT FOR PUBLICATION:

Contact information: More information, questions or quotes? Please contact Raoul Fransen, Acting International Coordinator or Martin Stolk, Communications Coordinator, at stolk@gnpplus.net or +31-20-423 4114 (GNP+ International Secretariat). All the material in this release may be reproduced freely, when GNP+ is mentioned as source.

Background information: The Global Network of People living with HIV/AIDS (GNP+) is a global network for and by people with HIV/AIDS. The mission of GNP+ is to work to improve the quality of life of people living with HIV/AIDS. GNP+ achieves its mission through advocacy, capacity building, and communications programs that draw from strategies based on: **ADVOCATING** for Inclusion, Visibility, Access, Rights; **LINKING** by Networking, Mentorship, Dialogue, Education; **SHARING** of Capacities, Knowledge, Strength, Resources.



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