



Assyrian Aid Society Iraq - Special status granted by ECOSOC

This is how NGO Branch Chief started his letter to AAS after the July 25th ECOSOC meeting..
“I am pleased to inform you that the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at its Substantive Session of July 2011 adopted the recommendation of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to grant **Special** consultative status to your organization “**Assyrian Aid Society (Iraq)**”. On behalf of all staff of the Non-Governmental Organizations Branch, please accept our heartfelt Congratulations.”

This enables Assyrian Aid Society to actively engage with ECOSOC and its Subsidiary bodies, as well as with the United Nations Secretariat, programs, and agencies in a Number of ways.

There are **privileges and obligations** that come with consultative status with ECOSOC

- Special status allows AAS to be informed about the provisional agenda of the Economic and Social Council; and may request the Secretary-General, through the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, to place items of special interest in the provisional agenda of the Council.
- New AAS status now entitles us to designate official representatives to the United Nations Headquarters in New York and the United Nations offices in Geneva and Vienna.
- AAS representatives will be able to register for and participate in events, conferences and activities of the United Nations,
- Organizations in special consultative status may designate authorized representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies, General Assembly, Human Rights Council and other United Nations intergovernmental decision-making bodies.
- A commission of ECOSOC may recommend that an NGO with special competence in a particular field undertake studies or investigations, or prepare papers for the commission;
- NGOs shall be able to consult officers of the appropriate offices of the Secretariat on matters of mutual interest or concern. Such consultation shall be at the request of the NGO or the Secretary-General;
- The Secretary-General may request organizations in special status to carry out studies or prepare papers.
- AAS must submit a quadrennial report to the Committee on NGOs, every 4 years, a brief report of their activities, specifically on the contributions that AAS have given to the work of the United Nations. Council has taken measures to suspend organizations which fail to submit the reports on time.

Now it is up to us all to make the most of this new status in serving our people in the land of our ancestors