What does it mean for an NGO to have Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)?

Having Consultative Status enables the AAA to have representation at meetings of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies as well as at meetings of related UN agencies and bodies. It also gives the AAA potential participation with the UN Department of Public Information, which does outreach to expand awareness of - and information about - the United Nations.

Consultative status also confers eligibility for a grounds pass, enabling access to the UN and the wide range of deliberations, events and activities that take place there.

Why is it important for the AAA to have Consultative Status?

Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) provides the possibility to have substantive input in the form of written and oral comments and provide information and analysis in areas that can fruitfully be informed by anthropological expertise. As a representative, it is also possible to participate as an expert as part of an official panel or roundtable on a particular topic.

What kind of representation can NGOs, including the AAA, have at the UN?

Consultative Status allows the AAA to obtain five annual grounds passes in New York, five in Geneva and five in Vienna, as well as two passes for the Chief Administrative Officer and President or Chief Officer of the AAA. Annual passes give access to UN grounds and many UN activities.

In addition there are short-term passes for particular events/activities for up to three months.

How can the AAA’s Consultative Status benefit individual AAA members?

AAA members in good standing can utilize the opportunity for participation in UN activities to share expertise and further research and understanding in areas of interest.

How do I find out about negotiations, events and discussions taking place concerning those issues that relate to my area of expertise?

In order to determine where and when a particular area of expertise is relevant, it is necessary to look on the UN website, at a variety of calendars and announcements as well as explore the websites of different UN Bodies, Agencies, Departments and Divisions, e.g., the Department for Economic and Social Affairs, the Human Rights Council or the various NGO umbrella groups that coordinate civil society activity in different UN bodies (e.g., Mandat International for the Human Rights Council). Some UN websites offer RSS feeds that provide news of upcoming events and programs.

What are the ways I can participate in UN activities?
As a member of the AAA it is possible to: 1) attend as an observer and contribute to relevant official meetings, 2) work with and through an NGO Committee that deals with the issues in which you have an interest, or 3) work informally with other NGO and civil society partners.

**How do I go about registering for a particular event (conference, meeting, etc.)?**

Each Body, Department or Division has its own procedures regarding dates by which registration is necessary and specific procedures for attending; they are posted on UN websites. These need to be ascertained by the individual beforehand. For specific events, AAA staff will help register you and provide accreditation materials. Those with annual passes have ongoing access to the UN and may attend most events without registering. In general, registration is desirable in order that the organization is credited with its attendance and engagement. In some cases, secondary passes are also required.

**Who is responsible for getting the information about UN events?**

This is the responsibility of the person who desires to attend.

**May I make an oral presentation for the record or submit an official written statement?**

An individual may not deliver any type of official statement unless the statement intended to be delivered is vetted by the Board (see *Procedures for requesting participation from AAA constituent groups or individual members*).

**What expectations does the AAA have as a result of my participation as its representative?**

An annual report is expected from those holding an annual pass. Those attending specific events are expected to report to the AAA on the official meetings which they attend, according to the agreement entered into at the moment of AAA authorization; see *Procedures for requesting participation from AAA constituent groups or individual members*.

**How do I become a member of an NGO Committee?**

Official NGO Committees are part of the Conference of NGOs with Consultative relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO). Committees meet once a month and information can be found by contacting the relevant Committee Chairs.

**How do I partner with other NGOs?**

Either through work on NGO Committees or through individual contacts made through participating in activities in and around the UN.

**What kind of activities might I be involved with as a partner with other NGOs or government representatives?**
Many UN official meetings have side events organized by NGOs and governments in relation to the negotiations. Side events are largely educational and draw both other NGOs and government representatives.

NGOs also work together and with governments to bring attention to specific issues and to lobby governments to take particular positions.