



## Providing ECOSOC Pass Policy

Policy number	P5	Version	V2
Previous Policy Number		Approved by Board on	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2025
Responsible person	Governance Committee	Scheduled review date	30 <sup>th</sup> April 2026

### 1. Background

United Nations ECOSOC – Economic and Social Council

For non-government organisations (NGO) to have consultative status at the United Nations they must have ECOSOC accreditation or status. ECOSOC Status is difficult to obtain and once granted requires a report to the ECOSOC Committee each four years to maintain the status and accompanying accreditation.

To be eligible for consultative status, an NGO must have been in existence (and officially recognized by government) for at least two years, must have an established headquarters, a democratically adopted constitution, authority to speak for its members, a representative structure, appropriate mechanisms of accountability and democratic and transparent decision-making processes. The basic resources of the organization must be derived mainly from contributions of the national affiliates or other components or from individual members

In 2023 the National Rural Women's Coalition was granted its ECOSOC Accreditation and accompanying Status.

Consultative status provides the National Rural Women's Coalition with access to not only ECOSOC, but also to its many subsidiary bodies, to the various human rights mechanisms of the United Nations, ad-hoc processes on small arms, as well as special events organized by the President of the General Assembly.

Please note the attached letter explaining our obligations and opportunities of having ECOSOC status.

### 2. Purpose

With ECOSOC status the National Rural Women's Coalition can make representation for the rural, regional and remote women of Australia and rural women globally through the United Nation systems and processes.

With ECOSOC status come passes to all ECOSOC processes through the United Nations across the world. These passes allow holders into the UN Compounds and 'non-public' spaces where human rights advocacy and negotiations take place among other ECOSOC accredited NGOs and government delegates. This is critical to timely advocacy and



information sharing to gain beneficial outcomes for women's rights. Venues that are of significant interest to the National Rural Women's Coalition such as UN HQ, New York for the Commission on the Status of Women; Geneva for the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Committee on Migrant Workers and more. Regional United Nations forums and meetings can also be attended by ECOSOC pass holders, this is particularly significant for Asia and the Pacific regional negotiations held in the United Nations Compound in Bangkok.

Indico is the UN body that verifies identification of those individuals applying for passes and then the creation of ECOSOC passes. The NRWC CEO has authorisation status on the associated platform.

### **3. Scope**

This policy documents the process of approval for providing ECOSOC passes to Directors, Contractors, Volunteers and Stakeholders and others as may be determined to be appropriate who will be given a pass in order to represent the National Rural Women's Coalition, or to be auspiced by the National Rural Women's Coalition at United Nations forums as an ECOSOC pass holder.

### **4. Policy**

**4.1** Persons provided with an ECOSOC pass by the National Rural Women's Coalition must have Gender Equality and Human Rights as a core belief and align with the vision and mission and any relevant policies of the National Rural Women's Coalition.

**4.2** ECOSOC passes will be made available to present and past Directors, Contractors, Volunteers and relevant Stakeholders that have provided significant service to the National Rural Women's Coalition and have an active and demonstratable knowledge of, and interest in, the United Nations Conventions and Agreements.

**4.3** ECOSOC Passes may be made available to women or gender and human rights advocates that are working to achieve gender equality and human rights from Australia or from the Asia Pacific region, where there are passes still available after Point 2 requirements have been met. This will be at the discretion of the NRWC.

**4.4** Passes may be revoked before or during the preparation for a United Nations meeting, Commission, forum or Civil Society event.

**4.5** Successful applicants are required to sign National Rural Women's Coalition ECOSOC Agreement

**4.6** The approval or non-approval of ECOSOC Passes does not need to be justified by the CEO to the applicant but does need to be referenced in the Minutes to the NRWC Risk Committee or other relevant NRWC committee that these matters sit with (e.g. 2024-2025 this is the Finance & Risk Committee) for the purposes of record keeping.



## **5. Responsibilities of ECOSOC Pass Holders**

Once approval for passes has been obtained it is the responsibility of the pass holder to provide:

- (a) A written report of the activities of event, meeting or forum attended to the National Rural Women's Coalition within 3 weeks of the conclusion said activity
- (b) The report must note the themes of the event, learning achieved and then shared
- (c) A verbal debriefs upon return to the CEO to ensure continual internal improvement of NRWC processes which must occur within three weeks of the conclusion of activity attended
- (d) Be prepared to present on the activities and themes of the meeting, event or forum which may include a webinar to NRWC Directors, funders and/or stakeholders including volunteers

## **6. Process**

Request for an ECOSOC pass must be in writing at least eight weeks (except in exceptional circumstances) prior to the activity.

The Request needs to include a resume, photo and copy of a primary form of identification (Australian Driver's license or Passport)

Requests must include a statement of what the participant hopes to achieve at the Commission, Forum or Meeting

Request applications will be reviewed by the CEO with successful applicants receiving notification of confirmation based on the NRWC Processes being completed prior to Indico registration and approval provided by the CEO.

Successful applicants are responsible for their own travel including airfares, accommodation, all insurances, communication costs, taxi and other incidentals

Successful applicants will be required to sign an insurance waiver

Successful applicants need to participate in a National Rural Women's Coalition briefing in relation to NRWC expectations and information sharing

Successful applicants will be required to complete all documentation provided by the NRWC prior to pass approval

There is no recourse on the NRWC or its CEO if Indico approval is not completed in time for an ECOSOC pass to be granted nor if Indico rejects the application.



## Authorisation

Signature of Board Secretary:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah Hirst", is written over a horizontal line.

Date of approval by the Board: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025  
National Rural Women's Coalition Ltd