

Youth Plastic Action Network (YPAN)

Statement on Consultative Status within the United Nations | AUGUST 9

We are deeply concerned with the language in Article 20, paragraph 6, on the need for nongovernmental organizations to have “**consultative status within the United Nations**” to be admitted as observers.

The term *consultative status* is a specific designation under the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) accreditation process. Using this terminology risks restricting participation to only ECOSOC-accredited NGOs, thereby excluding a wide range of relevant organizations qualified in the subject matter that can contribute substantially to the implementation of the Global Plastics Treaty. This includes organizations accredited as observers to the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions, the Minamata Convention, and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs).

Such a restriction would **undermine inclusivity, reduce diversity of expertise, and limit the representation** of right holders and youth-led organizations, many of which do not hold ECOSOC status but have long-standing recognition in UNEP and MEA processes.

There are more inclusive precedents within the UN system:

- **The Minamata Convention** (Article 23, para. 6), **the Basel Convention** (Article 15, para. 6) **the Stockholm Convention** (Article 19, para. 8), **the Rotterdam Convention** (Article 18, para. 7) use the exact same language and leave the admission of observers to the rules of procedure adopted by the Conference of the Parties, enabling flexible and progressively inclusive participation mechanisms: “The admission and participation of observers shall be subject to the rules of procedure adopted by the Conference of the Parties.”

We call on Member States to replace the narrow reference to “consultative status” with language that explicitly recognizes accreditation with UNEA, MEAs, and other relevant UN system entities, to uphold inclusivity, reflect established UN practice, and ensure the treaty benefits from the full breadth of expertise and perspectives necessary to address plastic pollution.