Mr. Chairman,

My delegation welcomes the decision of the NGO Committee to include additional screening questions for the NGOs seeking consultative status with ECOSOC, related to their possible associations with entities and individuals sanctioned by the UN Security Council.

We are glad that India’s proposal to corroborate the NGO applications with the sanctions list of the UN Security Council before granting consultative status, has resulted in this important first step in strengthening the review process by the Committee. The aim is to ensure that NGOs affiliated with individuals and entities proscribed by the UN Security Council shall not enter into a Consultative Status with ECOSOC.

There has been at least two instances in recent years, in July 2017 and in June 2019, when the Committee’s decision to grant Consultative Status to two
organizations had to be reversed by the ECOSOC, based on information received about their alleged links with terrorism.

Such situations called for further strengthening of scrutiny of NGO applications at the Committee itself, before they are recommended for Consultative status. The additional information received through the amended questionnaire will help in verifying the NGO applications with the sanctions list of the UN Security Council before granting consultative status. This step addresses a gap in the method of exercising due diligence while granting consultative status. It also seeks to bring the work of the NGO Committee in alignment with the measures taken by the Security Council on behalf of all UN Member States.

Non-governmental organizations with consultative status contribute to the work of the United Nations in a significant way. It is a partnership based of trust between the UN and the NGOs, as well as the NGOs and the communities whose voices they represent.

It is in this spirit of trust that the Committee seeks further information from the NGOs regarding their possible linkages with individuals and entities in UNSC Consolidated List. We believe that only through such collective commitment to combat terrorism, we can ensure that no individual or entity sanctioned by the UNSC can enter into a relationship of trust with the United Nations. The current measure also ensures that greater scrutiny does not pose any hindrance in the process of granting consultative status.
We thank all members of the Committee for their cooperation in the work of the Informal Working Group which deliberated upon this issue and agreed upon the amendments to the application just adopted.

We thank you Mr. Chairman for your able leadership of this process.

Thank you.