

ECOSOCC Call for Application for Elections into the 4th Permanent General Assembly

October 07, 2024

The Economic, Social, and Cultural Council of the African Union (ECOSOCC) is an advisory and consultative organ of the African Union, which was established in 2004 in accordance with the provision of Articles 5 and 22 of the AU Constitutive Act of the African Union. The legal framework governing the ECOSOCC (Statutes) adopted by the AU Assembly in July 2004. The Statutes defines members of ECOSOCC to include different social and professional groups of AU Member States and those African organizations based in the Diaspora.

Under Article 4 of the ECOSOCC Statutes, ECOSOCC is composed of one hundred fifty four (154) Civil Society Organization (CSOs): two (2) CSOs from each Member State (55); ten (10) CSOs operating at regional level and eight (8) at continental level, twenty (20) CSOs from the African Diaspora, as defined by the Executive Council and covering the continents of the world; and six (6) CSOs, in ex-officio capacity, nominated by the AU and based on special considerations. Additionally, Article 4 (2) of the Statutes provides that the elections for members of ECOSOCC at Member State, regional, continental and Diaspora levels shall ensure fifty percent (50%) gender equality provided that fifty percent (50 %) of the representatives shall consist of youth between the ages of 18 and 35. Members are elected for a term of four (4) years and may be re-elected only once.

Since its inception, the organ have had three successful General Assembly terms ; the first ordinary session of the Fourth Permanent General was inaugurated in December, 2022. The second ordinary session of the Fourth Permanent General Assembly is scheduled for December 2024. In light of the foregoing and as guided by its Credentials Committee, a body responsible for examining credentials of members of ECOSOCC and of their representatives, ECOSOCC is opening-up the application process for the existing vacancy (see Annex 1) into the 4th Permanent General Assembly.

Accordingly, ECOSOCC invites CSOs that meet the eligibility requirements stipulated in Article 6 of the Statutes (see Annex 2) to submit their application to be a member of the 4th Permanent General Assembly. The deadline to submit an application shall be on or before 7th November, 2024, 17 :00Hrs Lusaka time.

In order to allow for greater representation of CSOs from the fifty five (55) Member States of the Union and the five (5) Regions of Africa, the ECOSOCC is encouraging the civil society community including but not limited to social groups, professional groups, non-governmental organizations, community based organizations, voluntary organizations and cultural organizations to apply for ECOSOCC membership by filling the attached application form and provide all relevant supporting documents as indicated in the application form.

Applications will be screened by the ECOSOCC Credentials Committee followed by an AU-Inter Organ team for Verification and Appraisal of Eligibility of candidates and elections will be conducted for qualified candidates in November/December 2024. The Application Form and additional information about the ECOSOCC Elections shall be available on the ECOSOCC website <https://ecosocc.au.int/>

The applicants should refer to the application form and the eligibility requirements in Annex 2 in order to submit a successful application.

Completed application forms with all relevant documents should be sent to the ECOSOCC Secretariat by electronic mail at elections.ecosocc@africa-union.org before/or on 08 NOVEMBER 2024. Please note that incomplete applications shall not be processed and will be disqualified from subsequent phases of the elections.

If you require assistance or further information on the process, please address your queries to the following email address:

Annex 1

(a) LIST OF NON-REPRESENTED/ UNDER-REPRESENTED AU MEMBER STATES

SN	MEMBER-STATES
1	Central African Republic
2	Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe
3	Federal Republic of Somalia
4	Gabonese Republic
5	Kingdom of Eswatini
6	Kingdom of Lesotho
7	People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
8	Republic of Angola
9	Republic of Botswana
10	Republic of Cabo Verde
11	Republic of Djibouti
12	Republic of Equatorial Guinea
13	Republic of Guinea-Bissau
14	Republic of Malawi
15	Republic of Mauritius
16	Republic of Namibia
17	Republic of Senegal
18	Republic of Seychelles
19	Republic of South Africa
20	Republic of the Congo
21	Republic of Tunisia
22	Republic of Uganda
23	Republic of Zimbabwe
24	Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic
25	State of Eritrea
26	Togolese Republic
27	Union of the Comoros

(b) REGIONAL & CONTINENTAL CSOS

Regional (8 vacancies)	Registered organizations that engage or are operative in at least three Member States of the Union / within a specific region: North, East, West, Central or South
Continental (3 vacancies)	Registered organizations that engage or are operative at the continental level, in more than two Regions

Annex 2

Eligibility Requirements for Membership

(Article 6 of the ECOSOCC Statutes)

The requirements to be fulfilled by CSOs seeking membership are as follows:

1. Be national, regional, continental or African Diaspora CSO, without restriction to undertake regional or international activities.
2. Have objectives and principles that are consistent with the principles and objectives of the Union as set out in Articles 3 and 4 of the Constitutive Act.
3. Registration and status:
 - a) Be registered in a Member State of the Union and/or;
 - b) Meet the general conditions of eligibility for the granting of Observer Status to non-governmental organizations;
 - c) Show a minimum of three (3) years proof of registration as either an African or an African Diaspora CSO prior to the date of submission of application, including proof of operations for those years.
4. Provide annual audit statements by an independent auditing company.
5. Show proof that the ownership and management of the CSO is made up of not less than fifty (50%) of Africans or of African Diaspora.
6. The basic resources of such an Organisation shall substantially, at least fifty percent (50%), be derived from contributions of the members of the Organization. Where external voluntary contributions have been received, their amounts and donors shall be faithfully revealed in the application for membership. Any financial or other support or contribution, direct or indirect, from a government to the Organization shall be declared and fully recorded in the financial records of the Organization.
7. Provide information on funding sources in the preceding three (3) years.
8. For regional and continental CSOs, show proof of activities that engage or are operative in at least three (3) Member States of the Union.
9. CSOs that discriminate on the basis of religion, gender, tribe, ethnic, racial or political basis shall be barred from representation to ECOSOCC;
10. Adherence to a Code of Ethics and Conduct for civil society organizations affiliated to or working with the Union.