



**The President
of the
Economic and Social Council**

17 January 2018

Dear Special Rapporteurs,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter addressed to His Excellency Mr. Frederick Musiiwa Makamure Shava, President of the 2017 session of the Economic and Social Council, with regard to the decision by the Council not to grant consultative status to non-governmental organization Fondation Alkarama.

In my capacity as current President of the Economic and Social Council, I wish to recall that the above-mentioned decision was taken unanimously by the Council on 26 July 2017, thereby reversing the recommendation made by the Committee on NGOs at its resumed session for 2017. In doing so, the Council kept with its full authority to recommend granting consultative status to a non-governmental organization or not.

Decisions by the Council, as all those taken by a Charter body of the United Nations, are not subject to an appeal. It is up to members of the Council to introduce a draft decision on the matter if they wish to have it reconsidered. A non-governmental organization which has not been granted consultative status may also wish to re-apply for status and provide updated information that may lead to a more positive consideration of its application.

I hope this provides some clarification on the process for granting consultative status to non-governmental organizations. Please be assured that the Council will continue to abide by the principles and rules contained in ECOSOC resolution 1996/31 which governs such status.

Should you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Marie Chatardová
President of the Economic
and Social Council

David Kaye
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Michel Forst
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)