

## Third Session of OEWG on Ageing 21-24 August 2012, UN Headquarters, New York

### Information Note on NGO Accreditation

#### Application for accreditation to the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing

Accreditation is a **one-time process** by which not previously accredited non-governmental organizations become eligible to participate as observers in the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing. Accreditation is granted to organizations and not to individuals.

NGOs that have consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) or were accredited before are already accredited to the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing. All other NGOs wishing to participate in the Third Session **MUST** apply for accreditation.

Applications for accreditation should contain all the following information:

- a. The purpose of the organization;

The **National Alliance for Caregiving** is the leading United States-based researcher in the field of family (unpaid) caregiving, working to understand the realities and the needs of family caregivers across the lifespan or condition. In addition, the Alliance conducts policy analysis and makes recommendations, based on our research; we develop national education programs, increase public awareness of family caregiving issues, and work to strengthen state and local caregiving coalitions that provide services to caregivers in their communities. The Alliance also represents the US caregiving community internationally. Recognizing that family caregivers provide essential societal and financial contributions toward maintaining the well-being of those they care for, the Alliance's mission is to be the foremost national resource on family caregiving with the goal of improving the quality of life for families and care recipients.

- b. Information as to the programmes and activities of the organization in areas relevant to the human rights of older persons;

In its 16 year history, the National Alliance for Caregiving has led numerous research studies on family caregivers of older adults and older adults who are caregivers themselves. Those studies have helped to bring significant understanding of the impact of aging and chronic health conditions on families, as well as on issues such as work-life, finances, and caregiver health. Also, the impact over time to the US healthcare system and other public support systems is analysed and policy implications highlighted. These studies have helped to inform numerous policy issues that have led to better services for older adults and provided more support for their caregivers. The Alliance also works in collaboration with a variety of national recognized US coalitions engaged in aging issues, often times serving in leadership positions. Below is a partial list of the organizations the Alliance actively participates with:

- Advisory Panel for Medicare Education
- National Center for Senior Transportation (incoming chair)
- International Federation of Caregiving Organizations
- Fellow, National Academy of Social Insurance
- Policy Committee, 2005 White House Conference on Aging
- Center for Advancing Health
- Vinson Hall Continuing Care Retirement Community (Board member)
- Executive Committee, National Coalition on Mental Health & Aging
- Long Term Quality Alliance, Board of Directors
- Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), Board of Governors
- Advisory Board, United Healthcare Advisory Board
- Eldercare Workforce Alliance
- Leaders Engaged in Alzheimer's Disease
- Leadership Council of Aging Organizations

The Alliance also serves as the interconnector of over 83 state and locally-based family caregiver coalitions, composed of organizations that provide direct services to caregivers and care recipients in those communities. Beyond direct services, these coalitions serve as community educators on many issues, including aging, and often advocate within their state (and on occasion, federally) for improved funding and services for America's aging population and their caregivers. The Alliance provides training, resources and networking opportunities for these coalitions to share ideas, build infrastructure and leadership to collaboratively impact healthcare and related services for the betterment of older adults and their families.

- c. Confirmation of the activities of the organization at the national, regional or international level;

Among the studies that the Alliance has produced recently that directly furthers the field's knowledge of older adults and their family caregivers include:

- *Caregiving in the U.S. 2009* – a seminal study by the Alliance, repeated every 4 years, on the major issues faced by US caregivers – aging being a major topic.
- *What Made You Think Mom Had Alzheimer's?* (2010) – a look at the realities of Alzheimer's caregiving (often older spouses providing the care) and how caregivers are often earlier in recognizing symptoms of the disease than the patient's health provider.
- *Alzheimer's Caregiver's Healthcare Costs Increase as Person with Dementia Declines* (2011) – examines the financial impact and toll on personal health of the Alzheimer's caregiver.
- *Best Practices in Eldercare* (2012) – provides a sampling of caregiver work-life programs provided by companies to support employees who are caring for an older adult. The intent of the study is to be a catalyst to encourage more corporations to provide such policies and services.

In addition to these and other studies that have aging population components, the Alliance holds an annual meeting for our caregiving coalitions (as discussed in B above) as well as other stakeholder organizations. Many of the coalition members provide direct services to aging community members and their families. So, supporting them with education, resources and networking opportunities helps to support their aging clients and families. This year's conference is being held on July 10 in Denver, in conjunction with the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a), as many of their members participate in our coalitions. Also, in addition to the many coalitions that the Alliance actively participates in (as listed in B above) the Alliance routinely works with numerous federal agencies in the aging field. The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs are also represented on our Board of Directors. Likewise, the newly created U.S. Administration on Community Living (ACL) has very recently been asked to serve on our Board. Alliance Board members also include a representative from the National Council on Aging, American Society on Aging, AARP, MetLife's Mature Marketing Institute, National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a), and Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement – among those directly providing support to older Americans.

- d. Copies of the annual or other reports of the organization with financial statements, and a list of financial sources and contributions, including governmental contributions;

(2010 990 is attached)

- e. A list of members of the governing body of the organization and their countries of nationality;

All Board Members are of U.S. origin. (Board Member list is attached)

- f. A description of the membership of the organization, indicating the total number of members, the names of organizations that are members and their geographical distribution;

The National Alliance for Caregiving is an internationally respected coalition of for-profit, non-profit, academic and federal agencies, whose membership is open to like-minded national organizations invested in improving the lives of family caregivers and their care recipients. While governance and voting privileges resides with our Board of Directors (which is derived from our members), all Alliance members have many opportunities to engage with our broad constituency of providers, researchers, manufacturers, suppliers, state and local caregiving advocates, and other professionals and stakeholders engaged in the family caregiving field. The Alliance has 45 members. (Attached spread sheet lists all members and their geographical location)

- g. A copy of the constitution and/or by-laws of the organization.

For more information:

<http://www.un.org/documents/ecosoc/res/1996/eres1996-31.htm>.

#### **DEADLINE**

Please note that the application package should be received by **22 June 2012**. NGOs are encouraged to send their applications by email at [ageing-working-group@un.org](mailto:ageing-working-group@un.org)

#### **Applications for accreditation must be sent to:**

DSPD Focal Point on Ageing, Email: [ageing-working-group@un.org](mailto:ageing-working-group@un.org)

#### **Please note:**

- The Secretariat shall circulate to all States members of the Open-ended Working Group a list of new applications for accreditation received from non-governmental organizations no less than four weeks prior to each session of the Working Group, on a non-objection basis, except for the first session of the Working Group, when circulation of the list will take place no later than two weeks prior to the session;
- NGOs are encouraged to apply for ECOSOC Consultative Status. Please visit this website to learn more on how to apply: <http://csonet.org/?menu=83>