

[United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization], and which would focus at that time very much on trade and economic issues leading up to UNCTAD-4 [the fourth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development], which we were very concerned about, in Nairobi in 1976. Such UN services—there is one in Geneva and one in New York—would provide much more in-depth material, both research and study material, through NGOs and also gain access to their research.

"We created, almost by popular demand, this notion that the UN needed a 'third window' in its relationship with NGOs. The UN has in its Charter, in Article 71, the mandate to implement the first three words of the Charter—'We the peoples.' Article 71 says that peoples' organizations—NGOs—can have status—if accorded—through the Economic and Social Council [ECOSOC]. Therefore there are about 650, mainly international, NGOs that have consultative status. The kind of organizations that have this status is determined by governmental committee, with lots of politics involved, and it is a rather slow and bureaucratic process. But once you have that status, you have definite rights and can make interventions at some ECOSOC meetings and produce papers and so on. That's 'window 1.'

"'Window 2' is an information window, through the Department of Public Information [DPI]. The DPI has an NGO section, which holds weekly briefings in New York and Vienna and other UN capitals, and [which] pumps out a lot of information to NGOs. It is very much an information-out process.

"NGLS is the 'third window,' and we have limited ourselves both in geography and in subject matter to the NGOs of the industrialized world and to the issues of economic and social development. This is because our mandate comes from the 1974 Declaration and Program of Action on the New International Economic Order [NIEO], which urges the Secretary-General to do all he can to educate the public of member states, particularly those in the industrialized world, about the urgent issues of world development. It really does focus very much on development education in the North about the problems in the North; its scope has broadened to include many social issues (e.g., women and development), but it is not deeply involved with, say, decolonization or political issues, and only with disarmament so far as it is linked to development.

"In many ways, 1974 was a turning point: not only were there the global oil and food crises and the NIEO declaration, but for the first time in the UN's history the departments of information or of external relations of the whole UN family came together and formed the Joint United Nations Information Committee [JUNIC], composed of all the heads of information, about 35 or 40 representatives. JUNIC is an important point of co-ordination on things that are not specifically agency-oriented and where there is no rivalry, say, between UNICEF [United Nations Children's Fund] and WHO [World Health Organization] to get some statement out first. Two of the ongoing projects of this committee, JUNIC, are the publication Development Forum and our NGLSs.

"What has NGLS—New York actually done? Well, my territory is North America and Japan; Thierry Lemaesquier, who succeeded Ross Mountain,