

HMDC Presents... SOCHUM: Review Quiz

HMDC Presents... Review Quiz: SOCHUM: Role of NGOs

We take this quiz after we finish reading the SOCHUM research report, not before. When we are done, we check our answers in the Answer Key at the end. For every question we missed, we go back and reread the report section named in the key, so the idea is clear before we walk into committee.

PART 1 THE TOPIC

1. The OECD reported on government aid (official development assistance) in 2025. What did it find?

- A. Aid fell 5.8 percent, a small drop that the OECD expects to reverse in 2026.
- B. Aid fell 23.1 percent, the largest one-year drop in the history of official development assistance.
- C. Aid stayed about the same, but more of it went to local organizations.
- D. Aid rose a little, because Germany replaced all of the money the United States cut.

2. Most of the record 383 aid workers killed in 2024 were national staff serving their own communities. Why does this matter for a plan to localize aid?

- A. It shows that local staff should stop doing aid work and leave it to international staff.
- B. It shows that moving more work to local organizations also moves more danger to them, so localization needs protection and security funding.
- C. It shows that the Security Council has already solved the problem of attacks on aid workers.
- D. It shows that aid workers are only in danger in Gaza, so other places need no protection.

3. A Brookings study (2022) looked at how USAID funded local organizations. Which barrier did it describe?

- A. Local organizations were usually held to a 10 percent overhead rate, while international partners usually received 20 to 40 percent.
- B. Local organizations received more overhead than international partners, so they had too much money to spend.
- C. Local organizations refused to fill in any reports, so donors could not fund them.
- D. Fraud happens only with local organizations and never with large international partners.

4. UN pooled funds collect money from many donors into one pot. Which statement about them matches the report?

- A. Pooled funds sent less than 10 percent of their money to local and national NGOs in 2025.
- B. Pooled funds sent 55 percent of their money to local and national NGOs in 2025, the highest share ever, although the UN acts as a middleman that adds a layer of cost.
- C. Pooled funds cost nothing to run and do not depend on donors at all.
- D. Pooled funds give all of their money to large international NGOs.

5. Why do many experts see cash assistance as a way to stretch a shrinking budget?

- A. Cash works best in places where markets have collapsed and prices are rising very fast.
- B. Funding for cash grew quickly in 2025, so there is plenty of it.
- C. On average 71 to 77 percent of a cash budget reached people directly, compared with 54 to 56 percent for food aid.
- D. Local groups already deliver almost all cash programs, so no change is needed.

6. A delegate proposes international standards that limit how governments may regulate NGOs. Why will this proposal face strong opposition?

- A. Governments argue they have a sovereign right to know who funds groups inside their borders and to block foreign political interference.
- B. No government in the world has passed any law limiting NGOs.
- C. NGOs themselves have asked governments to close them down.
- D. The UN has never said anything about the right of NGOs to receive money.

PART 2 THE UNITED NATIONS

1. Which part of the UN record allows the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to make arrangements to consult with NGOs?

- A. General Assembly resolution A/RES/46/182 (1991)
- B. UN Charter, Article 71 (1945)
- C. Security Council resolution S/RES/2730 (2024)
- D. General Assembly resolution A/RES/70/1 (2015)

2. What did General Assembly resolution A/RES/46/182 (1991) do?

- A. It created the framework for coordinating UN emergency humanitarian assistance, the basis of today's system.
- B. It adopted the Sevilla Commitment on financing for development.
- C. It created a humanitarian exemption to UN sanctions.
- D. It set the rules for how NGOs gain consultative status.

3. An NGO works in a country under UN sanctions. It worries that buying fuel, food or medicine there could be treated as breaking the sanctions. Which UN decision speaks most directly to this problem?

- A. HRC resolution 53/13 (2023), on civil society space
- B. A/RES/79/1 (2024), the Pact for the Future
- C. S/RES/2664 (2022), which creates a humanitarian exemption so sanctions asset freezes do not block legitimate aid
- D. ECOSOC resolution 1996/31, on NGO consultative status

4. How does an NGO receive consultative status at the UN?

- A. Any NGO that applies receives status on the same day.
- B. A 19-member Committee on NGOs, made up of governments, recommends which groups receive status, and many applications are deferred (postponed) from session to session.
- C. The Secretary-General alone chooses which NGOs may speak.
- D. NGOs vote among themselves to decide which groups join the UN.

5. What happened to the General Assembly's yearly "omnibus" resolution on coordinating emergency humanitarian assistance in December 2025?

- A. It was adopted by consensus, as in every year before.
- B. It was adopted by 153 votes to 1.
- C. Sweden withdrew it after amendments were introduced, ending 33 years of adoption by consensus.
- D. The Security Council replaced it with a new resolution.

PART 3 INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS

1. Under the Grand Bargain (2016), donors, UN agencies and NGOs promised to send at least 25 percent of humanitarian funding to local and national actors "as directly as possible." Where does that promise stand?

- A. It has been fully met, and direct funding now passes 25 percent.
- B. Direct funding to local actors was only 4.3 percent in 2025, far below the 25 percent goal.
- C. The promise was cancelled in 2016, the same year it was made.
- D. The promise applies only to the United States.

2. The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005) set five principles. What does its principle of "ownership" mean?

- A. Donors own the projects they pay for.
- B. International NGOs set the strategies for each country they work in.
- C. Developing countries set their own strategies.
- D. Each donor works alone, without coordinating with other donors.

3. Why did the Financial Action Task Force revise its Recommendation 8 on non-profit organizations in November 2023?

- A. Countries were applying excessive measures against non-profits by misreading the rule, which disrupted legitimate NGO work.
- B. Non-profits asked for stricter rules against themselves.
- C. The rule had never been used by any country.
- D. The UN asked the Task Force to ban all foreign funding of NGOs.

4. The Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (2026) warned that localization "risks becoming a rhetorical commitment." What gap does this point to?

- A. Local groups are receiving too much money and too much power.
- B. Local partners are being asked to take on more work just as funding shrinks and paperwork demands grow, so the burden moves without the money or decision power.
- C. International NGOs have given all of their power to local partners already.
- D. Localization has been banned by the UN.

THINK LIKE A DELEGATE

There is no single correct answer to these questions. We write a short answer for each, then compare it with the list of what a strong answer includes.

- 1.** We represent a donor country that cut its aid budget in 2025. We want to keep helping people in crisis with less money. Which approach do we argue for in committee, and why?
 - 2.** We represent a country that has a "foreign agent" law requiring foreign-funded groups to register. Other delegates want to limit such laws. What do we argue, and what compromise could we offer?
 - 3.** Afghanistan's Taliban authorities ordered women to stop working for NGOs. Should NGOs keep working there under this rule, or should they withdraw until it ends? What do we argue, and why?
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ANSWER KEY

PART 1 THE TOPIC

1. **B.** The OECD found a 23.1 percent fall in 2025 and called it the largest one-year drop in history (Part 1A, OECD, April 2026).
2. **B.** Local staff carry most of the physical danger, so shifting work to them shifts the risk too, and the report pairs localization with protection (Part 1A, UN News, August 19, 2025).
3. **A.** Local partners were usually limited to 10 percent overhead while international partners received 20 to 40 percent (Part 1B, Brookings Institution, December 1, 2022).
4. **B.** Pooled funds reached a record 55 percent local share in 2025, but the report lists the UN's middleman role as a disadvantage (Part 1C introduction and Part 2C, OCHA, December 26, 2025).
5. **C.** More of each cash dollar reaches people than with food aid. Option A is incorrect because the report says cash does not work where markets have collapsed, option B is incorrect because funding for cash fell 11 percent in 2025, and option D is incorrect because progress on cash delivered by local groups has been slow (Part 1D, ALNAP, September 10, 2026).
6. **A.** The report names sovereignty and protection against foreign political interference as the reasons governments give (Part 1E introduction and Carnegie Endowment, November 2, 2015).

PART 2 THE UNITED NATIONS

1. **B.** Article 71 of the UN Charter allows ECOSOC to consult with NGOs (Part 2A, Table of UN Resolutions, and Part 2B).
2. **A.** A/RES/46/182 created the framework for coordinating emergency humanitarian assistance (Part 2A, Table of UN Resolutions).
3. **C.** S/RES/2664 creates a humanitarian exemption so sanctions asset freezes do not block legitimate aid (Part 2A, Table of UN Resolutions, and Part 3C).
4. **B.** A 19-member Committee on NGOs recommends status, and hundreds of applications are deferred (Part 2B, DESA NGO Branch and UN DESA, February 3, 2025).
5. **C.** Sweden withdrew the omnibus text after amendments, breaking 33 years of consensus; the 153-to-1 vote was a separate text on aid worker safety (Part 2C, United Nations Meetings Coverage, December 10, 2025).

PART 3 INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS

1. **B.** Direct local funding was 4.3 percent in 2025, still far from the 25 percent Grand Bargain goal (Part 3A, Inter-Agency Standing Committee, May 7, 2024, and Part 1B, ALNAP, September 10, 2026).
2. **C.** Ownership means developing countries set their own strategies (Part 3B, OECD, March 2, 2005).
3. **A.** The revision answered countries applying excessive measures against non-profits by misreading the rule (Part 3C, Financial Action Task Force, November 16, 2023).
4. **B.** The warning is that local partners receive more work without more money or decision power (Part 3D, Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, January 28, 2026).

THINK LIKE A DELEGATE

1. **Arguing for less money spent better.** A strong answer includes:

- Linking pooled funds, cash and local delivery in one plan, as experts proposed (Part 1C, Georgetown, August 13, 2025).
- The cost-efficiency figure: local intermediaries may deliver about 32 percent more cost-efficiently (Part 1B, ALNAP).
- The fact that pooled funds already sent 55 percent to local NGOs in 2025 (Part 2C).
- Fair overhead and security funding for local partners, so the burden is not simply pushed onto them (Part 1B, Part 1G, Part 3D).

2. Defending a foreign agent law. A strong answer includes:

- The reasons governments give: preventing foreign political interference, national security and fighting terrorism (Part 1E, Carnegie).
- Awareness of the other side: HRC resolution 53/13 protects the right of groups to seek, receive and use funding (Part 2D).
- A compromise such as clear transparency rules that do not block legitimate work, in line with the revised FATF Recommendation 8 (Part 3C).
- Awareness that Russia's and Nicaragua's laws led many groups to close, which other delegates will raise (Part 1E, ICNL).

3. Deciding whether to stay under the ban. A strong answer includes:

- The harm of the ban: female staff are the ones who can reach women and girls, and more than 28 million Afghans needed help (Part 1A, UN News, December 29, 2022).
- The question of neutrality and trust with all sides (Part 1F, ICRC, July 11, 2024).
- A clear position, staying or withdrawing, with at least one reason drawn from the report.
- A practical step, such as protecting local women's organizations, which the report shows are already closing (Part 1A, UN Women, July 10, 2026).