HMDC Presents...

Bloc Map: Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM)

Topic: Role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

NGOs are groups that are not run by governments. More than 6,000 organizations now have consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council. Some countries want NGOs protected, and others want more control over them.

THE MAIN GROUPS (BLOCS)

A bloc is a group of countries that often vote together. Rows that start with "Check:" mean our sources do not name the members, so research them yourself.

Group	Who is in it	What they want	Source
NGO-protection group	Norway sponsored a 2015 resolution protecting human rights defenders, and a clear majority of states supported it.	Protect people and groups who defend human rights.	International Service for Human Rights
Government-control group	China and Russia called the first-ever vote on that resolution; Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa and Myanmar also opposed it.	More government control over NGOs and their work.	International Service for Human Rights
Sovereignty group	Countries that stress UN Charter Article 2(7), which says the UN should not intervene in matters within a country's domestic jurisdiction.	Each country decides its own rules for NGOs.	United Nations
Abstaining middle group	40 states abstained on the 2015 resolution.	Undecided, so they can be persuaded by good compromises.	International Service for Human Rights

FINDING YOUR ALLIES

1.	If your country supports civil society, start with the sponsors of human rights defender resolutions.
2.	If your country worries about foreign influence, look for countries that stress sovereignty.
3.	The middle group is the key: about 40 states abstained, so win them over with balanced ideas.

THREE COMPROMISE IDEAS

A compromise gives each side something it wants. Try one of these in an unmoderated caucus.

1.	Ask NGOs to publish where their money comes from, while governments promise not to punish peaceful NGO work.
2.	Give local NGOs first place in projects, so outside groups support local leaders instead of replacing them.
3.	Create a UN help desk where governments and NGOs can solve problems before they become fights.

YOUR NOTES

My country's bloc: _____ My first ally: _____

SOURCES

According to UN Economic and Social Council, "Introduction to ECOSOC Consultative Status", Last Accessed: November 2026. https://ecosoc.un.org/en/ngo/consultative-status

According to International Service for Human Rights, "General Assembly adopts important resolution on human rights defenders in face of opposition from China and Russia", November 24, 2015. https://www.ishr.ch/news/general-assembly-adopts-important-resolution-human-rights-defenders-face-opposition-china-and

According to United Nations, "UN Charter, Chapter I: Purposes and Principles (Article 2)", Last Accessed: November 2026. https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/chapter-1

Positions change. Before the conference, read your own country's newest statement on this topic.