
HMDC Presents...
SOCHUM: The Role of NGOs
STRATEGY ROOM.
We are the SOCHUM committee. Our topic is the role of NGOs.
NGOs help people where governments cannot reach.
Let us study the harms, the solutions and the UN record.
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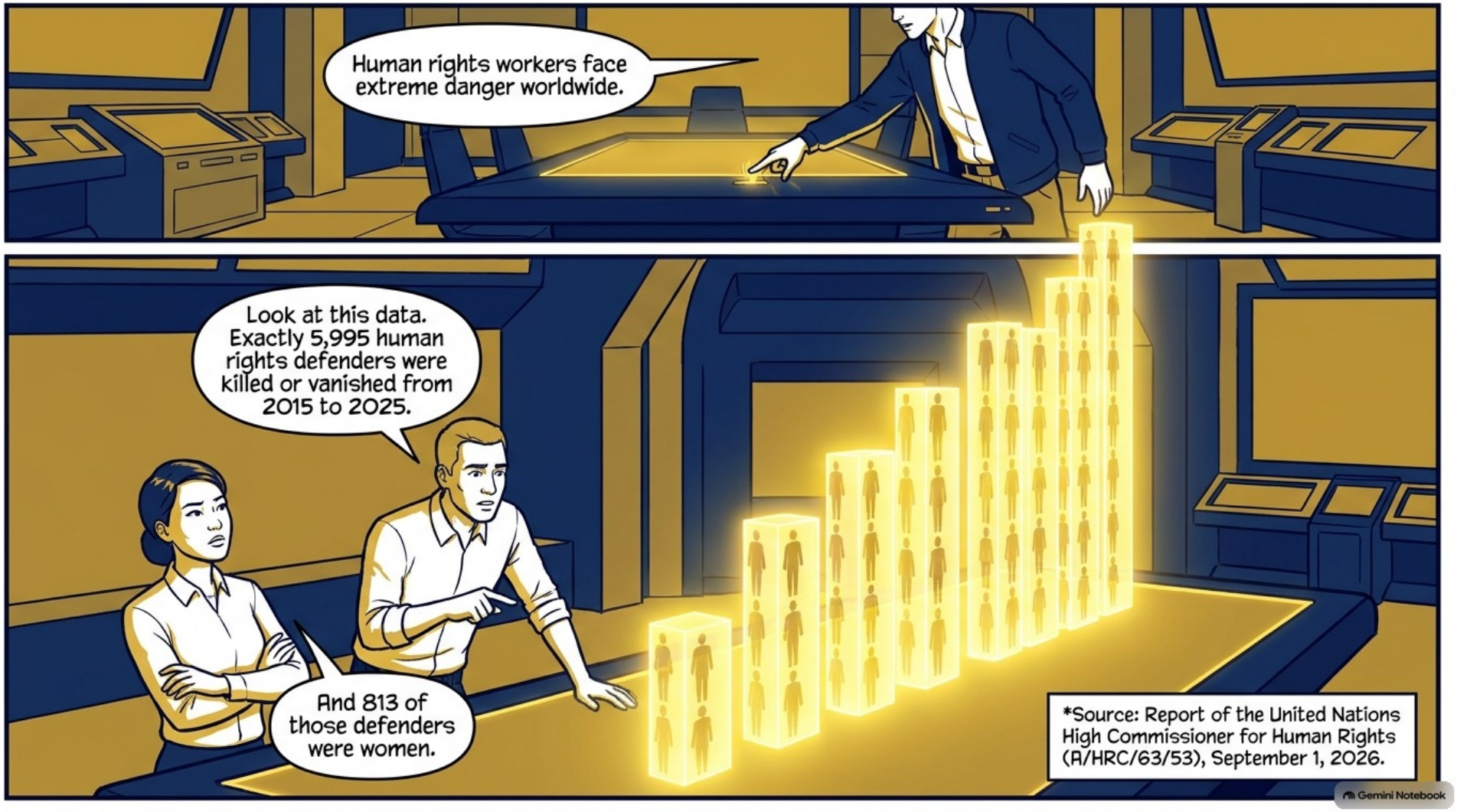
Human rights workers face extreme danger worldwide.
Look at this data. Exactly 5,995 human rights defenders were killed or vanished from 2015 to 2025.
And 813 of those defenders were women.
*Source: Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HRC/63/53), September 1, 2026.
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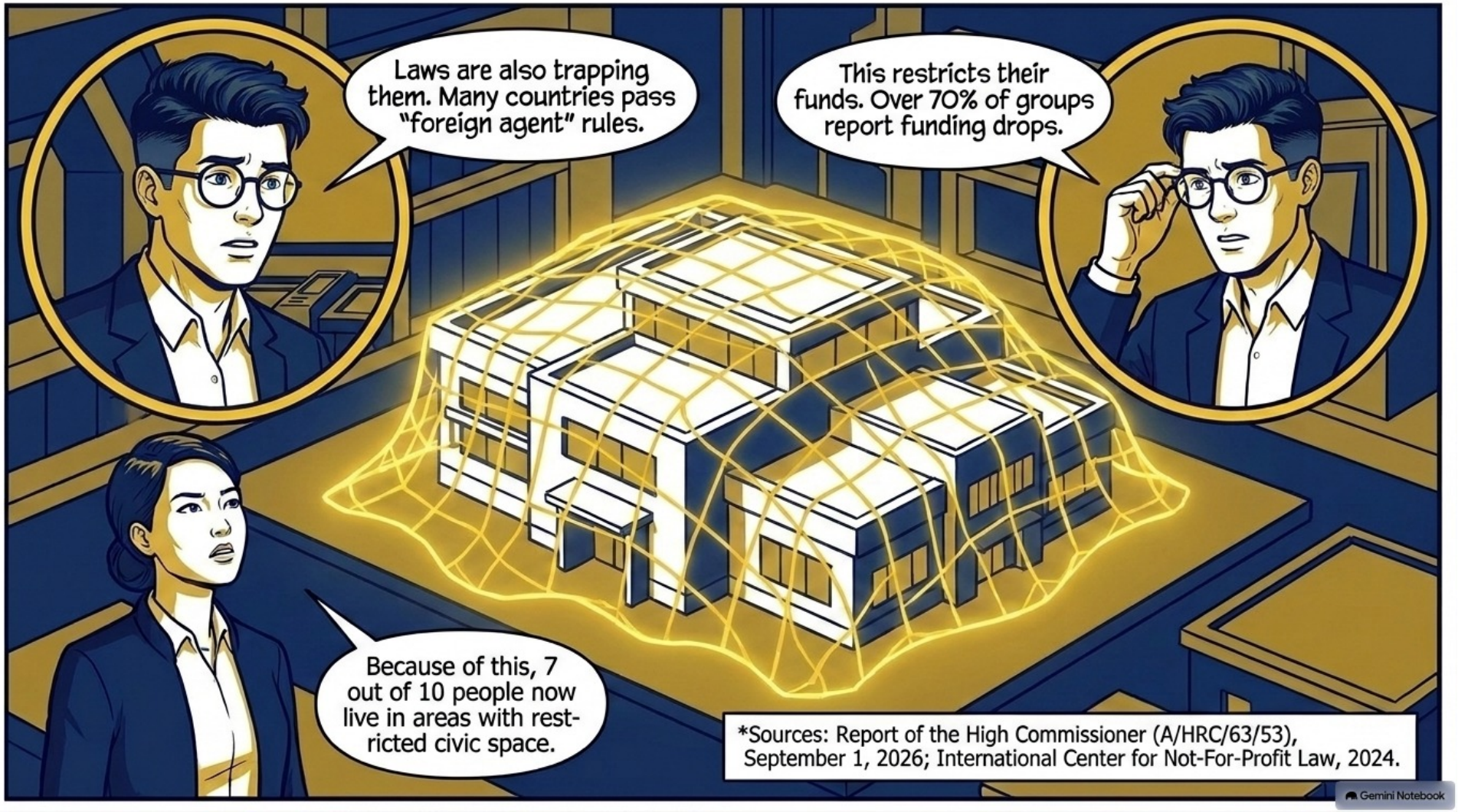
Laws are also trapping them. Many countries pass "foreign agent" rules.
This restricts their funds. Over 70% of groups report funding drops.
Because of this, 7 out of 10 people now live in areas with restricted civic space.
*Sources: Report of the High Commissioner (A/HRC/63/53), September 1, 2026; International Center for Not-For-Profit Law, 2024.
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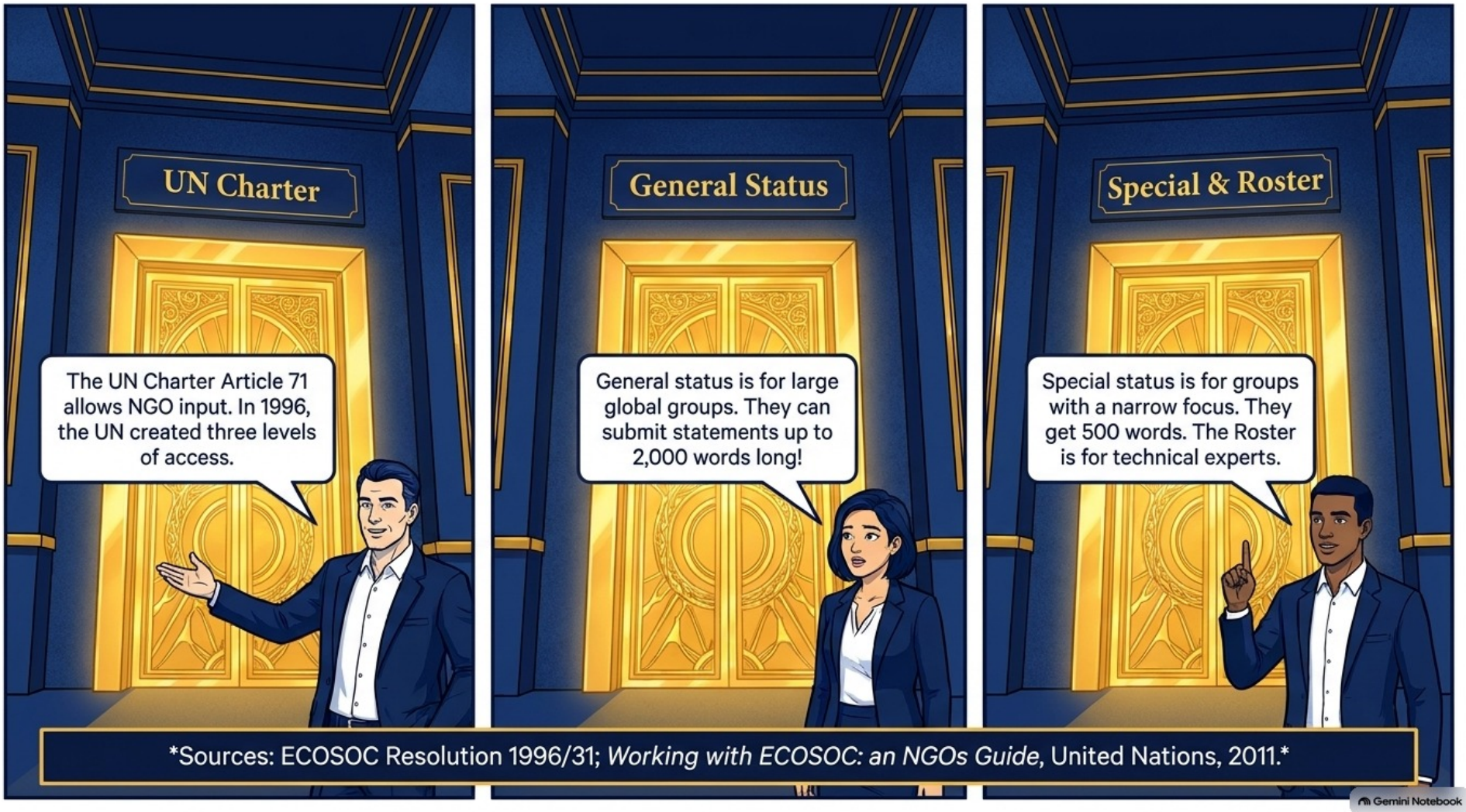
UN Charter
The UN Charter Article 71 allows NGO input. In 1996, the UN created three levels of access.
General Status
General status is for large global groups. They can submit statements up to 2,000 words long!
Special & Roster
Special status is for groups with a narrow focus. They get 500 words. The Roster is for technical experts.
*Sources: ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31; *Working with ECOSOC: an NGOs Guide*, United Nations, 2011.*
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But the wait times are huge! One group waited 7 years to be approved.
The system is stalling. Recently, the approval rate for NGOs dropped to a record low of 5%.
They faced 80 repetitive questions across 14 different meetings!
Sources: Statement by Ambassador Matthew Rycroft, GOV.UK, April 19, 2017; International Service for Human Rights, June 10, 2026.
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Resolution 2664 from 2022 stops UN sanctions from blocking humanitarian aid.
The UN Security Council is taking action to protect these groups and their work.
And Resolution 2730 from 2024 demands protection for all aid workers.
Sources: UN Security Council Resolution 2664 (2022); UN Security Council Resolution 2730 (2024).
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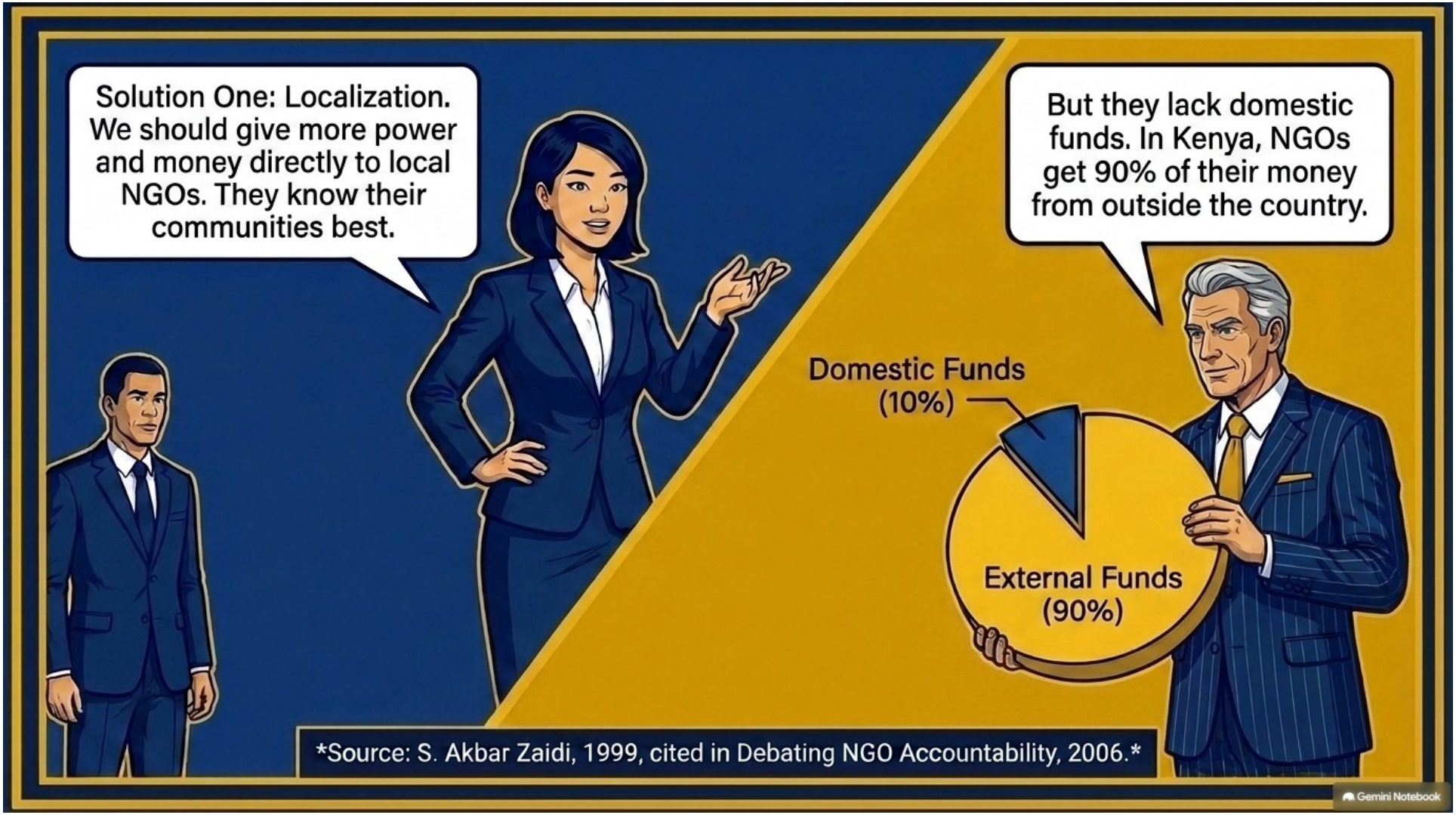
Solution One: Localization. We should give more power and money directly to local NGOs. They know their communities best.
But they lack domestic funds. In Kenya, NGOs get 90% of their money from outside the country.
Domestic Funds (10%)
External Funds (90%)
Source: S. Akbar Zaidi, 1999, cited in Debating NGO Accountability, 2006.
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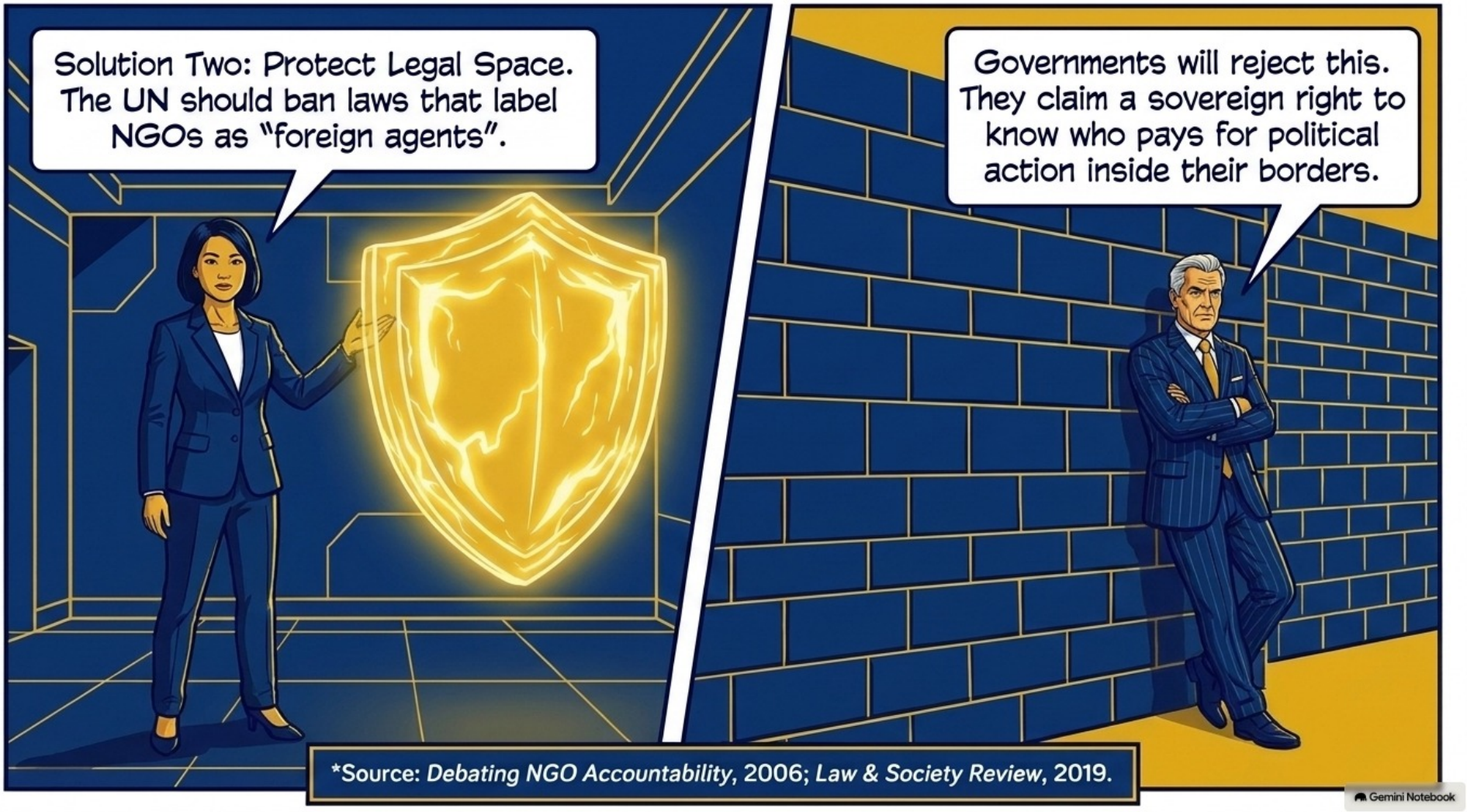
Solution Two: Protect Legal Space. The UN should ban laws that label NGOs as "foreign agents".
Governments will reject this. They claim a sovereign right to know who pays for political action inside their borders.
*Source: Debating NGO Accountability, 2006; Law & Society Review, 2019.
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Solution Three: Accountability. NGOs must follow strict codes of conduct to prove they are honest and transparent.
Huge rulebooks crush small local groups. They do not have the staff to handle massive amounts of paperwork.
Source: The Operation of Non-Governmental Organizations, Harvard DASH, 2007.
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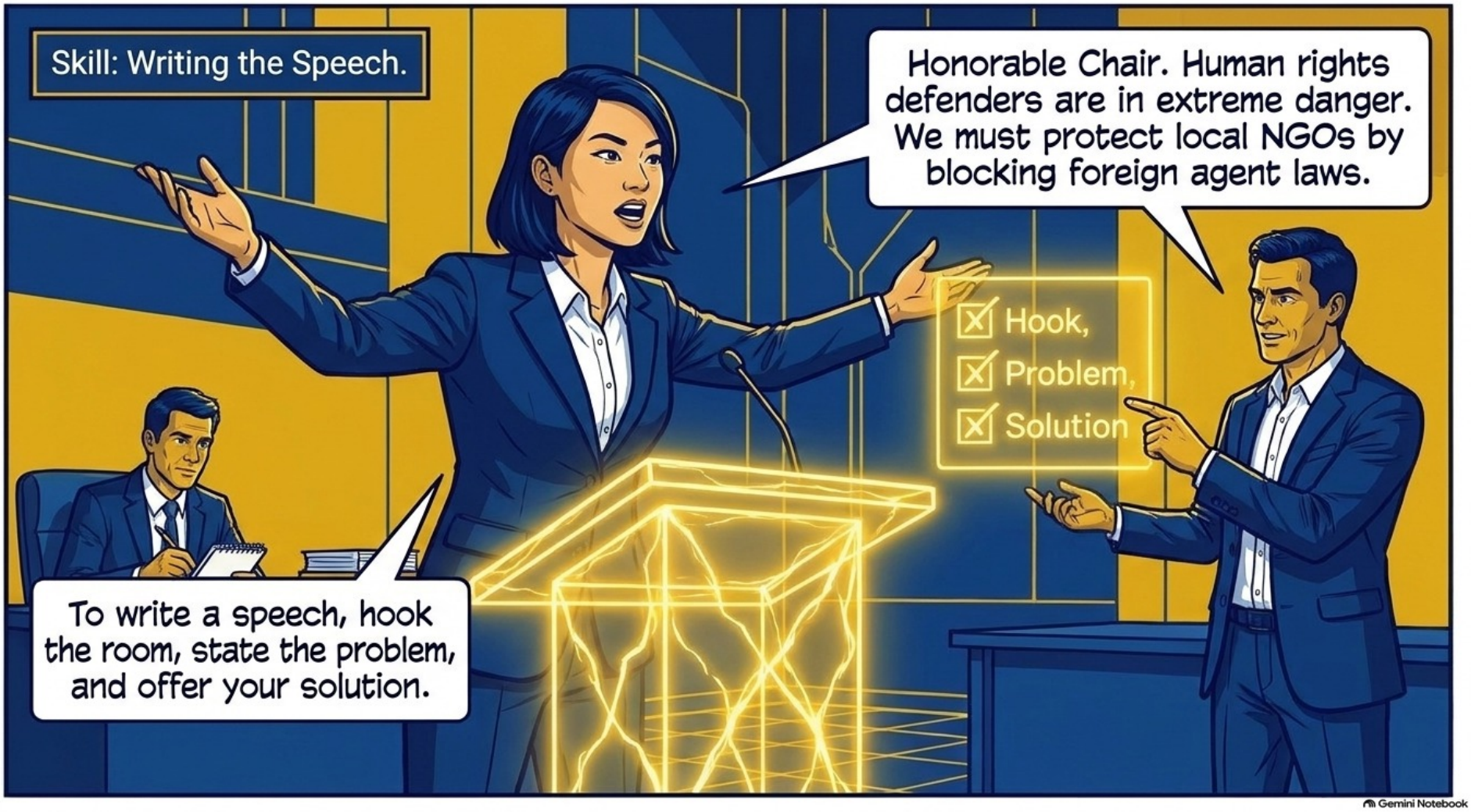
Skill: Writing the Speech.
To write a speech, hook the room, state the problem, and offer your solution.
Honorable Chair. Human rights defenders are in extreme danger. We must protect local NGOs by blocking foreign agent laws.
Hook,
Problem,
Solution
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Skill: Writing the Clause.
Calls upon Member States to increase direct funding to local NGOs to build independent capacity;
A clause turns your idea into action. Always use a strong starting verb.
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The facts are clear. The solutions are ready.
We have our speeches and our clauses.
Let's go to SOCHUM and solve this.
End of Training. See you in committee.
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