

***Parliamentary Resolution 57/2008 (19 May 2008) on the Public Legal Status,
Jurisdiction, Composition, Duties and Operational Framework of the
National Council for Sustainable Development***

The Parliament of the Republic of Hungary hereby defines the public legal status, jurisdiction, composition, duties and operational framework of the National Council for Sustainable Development (hereinafter, the Council) created pursuant to Parliamentary Resolution 100/2007 (14 November), in accordance with the following.

1. Legal status of the Council: the Council is created by Parliament as a conciliatory, consultative and advisory organ for issues in the field of sustainable development.

2. Jurisdiction of the Council: the Council shall debate the issues on its agenda (raised by Parliament or on its own initiative) and shall formulate opinions with respect thereto which it shall publish in the form of recommendations, proposals or position papers.

3. Composition of the Council:

3.1. Pursuant to Parliamentary Resolution 100/2007 (November 14), the Chair of the Council shall be the current Speaker of the Hungarian Parliament.

3.2. Council Co-Chairs: the Council shall have four Co-Chairs. The Parliament shall request that the Government designate one of its members as a Council Co-Chair. The remaining three Co-Chairs shall be selected from among the Council's members as follows: one Co-Chair from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, one Co-Chair representing the MP Groups of the Opposition Parties in Parliament, and one Co-Chair from the civil society organisations.

3.3. The Parliament shall request the following bodies to send delegates as Council members:

MP groups of the parties in Parliament (1 per MP group),
the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (3 delegates)
chambers of commerce (2 delegates), the churches (2 delegates),
trade unions (2 delegates),
employers' organisations (2 delegates),
municipal associations (2 delegates),
the Federation of Technical and Scientific Societies (1 delegate),
the Hungarian Rector's Conference (1 delegate),
NGOs operating in the social or health-care spheres (2 delegates),
organisations representing national and ethnic minorities (2 delegates),
environmental and nature conservation NGOs (2 delegates),
NGOs representing social classes and age groups (2 delegates),
and NGOs from the cultural and educational sectors (2 delegates).

Parliament shall request the Chair of the Council to, if necessary, carry out consultations with the representatives of the above organisations regarding their delegations.

3.4. The organisations delegating members shall be responsible for the nomination of these members and, if necessary, their removal. For NGOs active in the given field (organisations carrying out activities on a nation-wide scale) seeking representation in the Council shall designate their own procedure to select their delegates.

3.5. No remuneration is provided for Council membership nor for activities connected thereto.

4. General scope of jurisdiction and responsibilities of the Council: to assist in the formulation of national sustainable development guiding principles and overarching tasks, taking international cooperation into account; to assist in the ongoing renewal and implementation of the sustainable development strategy; to provide coordination support for the related planning and consultative activities; and to enhance the participation of the public sector and of society at large.

5. Operational Framework of the Council:

5.1. The Council shall, as a general rule, convene quarterly. The Council Chair shall convene the Council and set its agenda with the assistance of the Co-Chairs. The Council shall be convened promptly (within no more than one month) if at least one-third of Council members have requested the Chair in writing to this effect, indicating the topic in question.

5.2. The Council shall, in connection with sustainable development proposals, national and international issues, facilitate the achievement of sustainable development policy objectives within the general scope of its jurisdiction and responsibilities by formulating, disseminating and publishing its opinions, proposals and recommendations, or through other means (such as by initiating programmes or by participating in various programmes itself).

5.3. Council decisions shall be passed by at least a two-thirds majority of members present. The Council shall have quorum if the majority of members are present.

5.4. The Council may request expert assistance for the fulfilment of its members' activities. Such invited experts may take part in a meeting of the Council with consultative rights – subject to approval by the majority of the Council – but may not stand in lieu of Council members.

5.5. The Council may establish permanent and ad hoc working groups.

5.6. The Council shall report on its activities to Parliament once a year.

5.7. The Council's secretarial tasks shall be performed by the secretariat assisting the chairmanship. Resources required for the operation and secretarial functions of the Council must be planned and carried out within the scope of the parliamentary budget.

5.8. The Council shall establish its own rules of procedure in accordance with the present Resolution.

6. The Council shall begin its operations by holding an inaugural meeting. The Chair may convene the inaugural meeting insofar as the number of delegates from the invited organisations reaches four-fifths of the total Council membership.

7. This Resolution shall come into effect on the day of its publication; thus putting an end to the effect of Article 8 of Parliamentary Resolution 100/2007 (14 November) on the Planning and Consultative Procedure on the Republic of Hungary's Long-Term Sustainable Development, as well as the part of Article 5 thereof which states that "the Government shall provide for the costs of the [...] secretarial functions".

Dr. Katalin Szili

Speaker of the Parliament

József Attila Móring
Clerk of the Parliament

István Nyakó
Clerk of the Parliament

