



South African NGO Coalition

Western Cape

Membership Policy 2009

Membership Policy



1. Preamble

The mission of the South African NGO Coalition (SANGOCO) is to promote civil society, by uniting and strengthening the Civil Society Sector, to enable it to influence development policy, and advocate for programmes that meet the needs of the poor in the best possible way, at the least cost.

CSOs that want to become members of SANGOCO should subscribe to the above mission and the SANGOCO Code of Ethics.

The SANGOCO constitution and policy documents will determine definitions, criteria, rights and obligations for members. This policy must be read alongside these documents.

SANGOCO shall wherever possible adopt an inclusive approach to membership.

2. Membership Policy

2.1. CSOs

For CSOs to join SANGOCO Western Cape they must fulfil the following criteria:

- Operate in the Western Cape
- Be independent
- Be self-governing
- Be a voluntary organisation
- Be a non-profit organisation (registered as a Section 21 Company Not for Gain, a Trust or a Voluntary Association)
- Operate in the public interest
- Have a Constitution
- Sign the Code of Ethics and adhere to all its requirements
- Adhere to the mission of the Coalition

The following are excluded from becoming full members of SANGOCO

- Donors and funding agencies
- Political parties
- Individuals

- For profit businesses

2.2. Sectoral Membership

For a sector to be recognised as a member of SANGOCO Western Cape they must fulfil the following criteria:

- Be an umbrella organisation composed of affiliates working within the same sector
- Have affiliates in at least 4 of the 6 different districts
- Be a non-profit organisation, whose constitution, or practice limits its affiliates to non-profit organisations.
- Provide regular report-backs to members and must convene annual membership meetings.

2.3. District Membership

For a district to be accepted as a coordinating member structure of SANGOCO which will act as a district secretariat they must fulfil the following criteria:

- Have four annual membership meetings, one of which must be an Annual General Meeting
- Have a duly elected and mandated district coordinating committee following the guidelines as set out by the Provincial Executive Committee
- Have a district secretariat office
- Engage in activities to share information
- Engage in activities to build SANGOCO and the district

3. Membership Committee

In the interest of facilitating an inclusive and representative membership a membership committee is proposed.

3.1. Provincial Level

A provincial membership committee of three accredited members appointed by the Provincial Executive Committee will review applications and resolve any controversy regarding provincial membership and accreditation. The provincial membership committee would meet twice a year and report to the provincial executive committee. Sectors may, at the Provincial Executive Committee's discretion be granted observer status until they become members. This will enable them to gain access to general information.

3.2. District Level

A district membership committee of three accredited members appointed by the district coordinating committee will review applications and resolve any controversy regarding district membership applications. The district membership committee will meet quarterly and report to the district coordinating committee. Organisations may, at the district coordinating committee's discretion, be granted observer status until they become members. This will enable them to gain access to general information

4. Membership Fees

In the interest of long term financial sustainability membership fees are charged. Sectors and districts are encouraged to use the fee structure outlined below. Fees will be collected by the SANGOCO Provincial office only. SANGOCO Provincial Office, sectors and districts share the responsibility for encouraging their affiliates to become members of the Coalition.

4.1. Fee Structure

NGOs and CBOs with an annual budget below R50 000	R170.00
NGOs and CBOs with an annual budget above R50 000 and below R500 000	R290.00
NGOS and CBOs with an annual budget above R500 000 and below R2.5 million	R520.00
NGOs and CBOs with an annual budget above R2.5 million	R1 080.00

Fees to be paid within the first three calendar months of the year. The provincial office will retain or receive 20% of fees collected for membership services and the balance will go to districts to support the secretariat activities of the district coordination structures.

On payment of registration fees, each member will receive a promotional package which includes

- a) Certificate of membership
- b) A membership number
- c) The SANGOCO Constitution
- d) Membership policy

- e) SANGOCO Annual Report
- f) Code of Ethics

5. Membership in good standing

Coalition members who have not paid their membership fees by the due date will lose their voting rights

5.1. Benefits of membership

A range of membership benefits and services have been identified. Given our broad-based membership SANGOCO by necessity has to make choices among the actual mix of functions which reflects the intersection of many factors. Those factors internal to the Coalition include the availability of financial and staff resources; the nature of the membership and the expectations and interests of the members vis-à-vis the role of the secretariat. The mix is influenced as well, by external factors such as the social and economic context, the nature of government and its relationship with CSOs and the interests and needs of donors.

During 2009, SANGOCO in responding to membership requests succeeded in providing useful activities and services to benefit members and has played a more active role than merely being a convenor or facilitator. Some of the benefits and services provided to members include the following:

Type	Description
Benefits	Part of a coordinated., cohesive, coherent and strong voice for civil society Membership Certificate Use of the SANGOCO logo on organisational websites and promotional materials Invitations to SANGOCO civil society engagements; networking and partnership activities Invitations to conferences and meetings Access to subsidised capacity building programmes Access to financial and human resources Access to training and development
Services	Access to a comprehensive on-line

database and other communications infrastructure and services
Facilitation of dispute resolutions
Coordination of research activities
A TOOLKIT on how to start an organisation
Project management and coordination services
Information and Communication strategies and support
Monitoring and evaluation of programmes and activities
Participation in Sectoral Campaigns

In addition members can call on the provincial office to assist with:

- Programmes aimed at encouraging and stimulating organisations to participate in campaigns and activities
- Communication infrastructure
- Project Management and Logistical support

6. Dispute resolution

6.1. NGOs/CBOs

In the unfortunate event of a dispute arising within and between organisations and where such a dispute impacts on SANGOCO membership or reputation and profile, the disputing organisation/s will be suspended until they resolve their dispute. Mediation support can be requested from the provincial office if needed.

7. Districts

In the unfortunate event of a dispute arising between two groups claiming to represent a sector or district, both parties will be suspended until the dispute has been resolved. Mediation support can be requested from the provincial office if needed. The provincial executive committee will be the final decision making body should the dispute not be resolved. In such circumstances the provincial executive committee has the power to mandate the provincial office, or some independent organisation, to assist in identifying legitimate members and facilitating the election of legitimate leadership.

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