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## **Coptic Orphans Recommended for Special Consultative Status by the United Nations Economic and Social Council**

**(Fairfax, VA, March 12, 2020)** —Coptic Orphans is pleased to announce the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, has affirmed its recommendation that Coptic Orphans be granted special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

This special consultative status will enable Coptic Orphans to actively engage in opportunities with ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies, contribute in the work of the Council, engage with member states and the public at General Assembly and influence economic and social policy recommendations for consideration by the agency.

“We are honored by this prospect of endorsement by the Economic and Social Council and the opportunity of guiding social policy. This recommendation is only held by approximately 4,000 NGOs globally,” said Nermien Riad, Executive Director at Coptic Orphans.

“This official consultative relationship would enable Coptic Orphans to have a salient presence at the United Nations and provide opportunities to elevate the most pressing and critical needs we encounter in our work in Egypt to the attention of the international community and ECOSOC member states.”

With special consultative status, Coptic Orphans will be cognizant of the Economic and Social Council provisional agenda and be qualified to call upon the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations for the Secretary General to add matters of exceptional concern to the agenda. The final decision on Coptic Orphans’ special consultative status will be determined in June 2020.

For press and media inquiries, please contact Suzanne Toma.

### **About The Economic and Social Council**

*The Economic and Social Council is at the heart of the United Nations system to advance the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental. It is the central platform for fostering debate and innovative thinking, forging consensus on ways forward, and coordinating efforts to achieve internationally agreed goals. It is also responsible for the follow-up to major UN conferences and summits. The UN Charter established ECOSOC in 1945 as one of the six main organs of the United Nations.*

### **About Coptic Orphans**

*Coptic Orphans is an award-winning international Christian development organization that has transformed the lives of over 55,000 children in Egypt since 1988. We believe that through long-*

*term programs that focus on education, we can affect the vicious cycle of poverty. To learn more, visit <http://www.copticorphans.org>.*