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Request for Proposals to Establish and Maintain a Centralized Repository of Information on Non-US Based NGOs

Arlington, VA—The Council on Foundations, the Foundation Center, Independent Sector, and InterAction are soliciting proposals to establish and maintain a centralized repository of equivalency determination (ED) information on non-U.S. NGOs. The entity that hosts the repository will be responsible for reviewing ED requests to determine if an NGO is the equivalent of a U.S. public charity under IRS rules.

Currently, this information is collected independently by individual grantmaking organizations, at considerable time and expense. At the same time, NGOs are often asked to provide the same information over and over to multiple potential U.S. donors.

“The current system of gathering legal and organizational information necessary to determine whether a foreign NGO is the equivalent of a U.S. public charity is vastly inefficient,” comments Rob Buchanan, managing director of International Programs at the Council on Foundations. “International grantmaking by U.S. foundations is growing rapidly, and a centralized database where ED information can be collected and shared would be helpful to both grantmakers and grantseekers.”

The organization selected to be the host will be provided with assistance to secure the required approvals from the IRS to enable operations and collaborative use by grantmakers and also to raise the necessary startup funds to establish the repository. The host of the repository may either be a single organization or a partnership of organizations with complementary strengths.

For more information, visit www.iaa.com/NGORepositoryRFP.html for a copy of the full RFP plus the process and timetable for receiving answers to clarifying questions. The deadline for submitting a letter of intent to submit a proposal is May 19, 2008, and the proposal deadline is June 20, 2008. Send all RFP submissions and email inquiries to NGORepositoryRFP@iaa.com or contact Martin Schneiderman at 609-924-6936.

The Council on Foundations is a Washington, DC, area-based nonprofit membership association of more than 2,100 grantmaking foundations and corporations. The assets of Council members total more than \$307 billion. As the voice of philanthropy, the Council works to create an environment in which the movement can grow and thrive and to provide Council members with the products and services they need to do their best work. For more information on the Council, please visit www.cof.org.

The Foundation Center is a national nonprofit service organization whose mission is to strengthen the nonprofit sector by advancing knowledge about U.S. philanthropy. Established in 1956, and today supported by hundreds of foundations, the Center is the nation's leading authority on organized philanthropy. It maintains the most comprehensive database on U.S. grantmakers and their grants, conducts research on trends in foundation growth, giving, and practice, and operates numerous free and affordable education and outreach programs. For more information, visit foundationcenter.org.

Independent Sector is a nonprofit, nonpartisan coalition of approximately 600 charities, foundations, and corporate philanthropy programs, collectively representing tens of thousands of charitable groups in every state across the nation. Its mission is to advance the common good by leading, strengthening, and mobilizing the charitable community. For more information, please visit www.independentsector.org.

InterAction is the largest alliance of U.S.-based international development and humanitarian nongovernmental organizations. With more than 160 members operating in every developing country, they work to overcome poverty, exclusion and suffering by advancing social justice and basic dignity for all. InterAction manages a range of programs that seek to deepen NGO accountability and impact, strengthen the collective voice of NGOs in the US and globally, and advance poverty alleviation and humanitarian assistance objectives through effective partnerships with key development actors such as bilateral and multilateral aid organizations, aid donor and recipient governments, and the private sector.

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