

August 9, 2023 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Phoenix Zones Initiative Granted Special Consultative Status with UN Economic and Social Council

**Albuquerque, NM –** The United Nations (UN) has granted Phoenix Zones Initiative (PZI) special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). PZI is a global nonprofit organization that uses medical and health expertise to advance human, animal, and planetary health.

This ECOSOC special status enables PZI to engage with the UN and its subsidiary bodies, including by attending events and meetings, providing expertise on the nexus of the rights, health, and wellbeing of people, animals, and the planet, cultivating meaningful partnerships with governments, industries, and the public, and informing UN goals and objectives.

PZI's president, Dr. Hope Ferdowsian, an internal medicine, preventive medicine, and public health physician, said, "As an NGO, we are honored to receive special consultative status through the Economic and Social Council, a central UN forum for turning ideas into action. We will fulfill this privilege by being a stronger voice for people, animals, and the planet, and we look forward to continuing to work in solidarity toward a kinder and healthier world."

Dr. Ferdowsian stressed that this special status will enable PZI to provide guidance, leadership, collaboration, and expertise.

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The Economic and Social Council is the UN body responsible for advancing sustainable development, cultivating consensus on how to move forward, and coordinating efforts to achieve goals agreed on by the international community.

ECOSOC is currently the only primary UN body that offers a formal framework for NGO participation.

## **About Phoenix Zones Initiative**

Phoenix Zones Initiative (PZI) uses medical and public health expertise to advance the rights, health, and wellbeing of people, animals, and the planet through education, research, and advocacy. Led by physicians and an interdisciplinary team, PZI promotes social, economic, and environmental policy to uplift the most vulnerable, and provides training and resources to empower others to advocate for similar change.

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