



**Guide for Servas International
Representatives to the United Nations**

2018

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I. INTRODUCTION

On June 26, 2015, the President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Martin Sajdik, opened the forum on Sustainable Development, declaring that 2015 must be the year when the world's people and leaders realize the dream of a new sustainability agenda. *"We have already reached agreement on 17 proposed sustainable development goals (SDGs) with poverty eradication and the protection of the planet as their overarching objectives and build on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The goals "address the structural causes of poverty and inequality and speak to economic and environmental dimensions. They embrace the pursuit of peaceful, inclusive and well governed societies, building on the rule of law, as integral to the development agenda,"* 2015 must be not only a year when people and leaders shared a great dream - *"It must be the year when the world mobilized to realize that dream. It must also be the year when we launched an all-out effort to implement our new sustainable development agenda."*

As Servas members, we join the UN as part of a peace-building process of building a world free of violence, poverty and inequality by 2030. Servas is one of 5083 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) accredited with consultative status by UN ECOSOC, *"the central platform for fostering debate and innovative thinking, forging consensus on ways forward, and coordinating efforts to achieve internationally agreed goals."* www.un.org/ecosoc

It is an awesome responsibility and the benefits are universal. When we meet with fellow Servas hosts and travelers around the world, we build the foundation for universal peace and as we share experiences, customs, and respect for all peoples, we add to the network which allows all people in every country basic needs and rights to pursuit of happiness.

Our role at the UN enables us to participate in several ways:

- Learn how the UN works to eliminate hunger, empower women, provide education to all children, housing and health care to all.
- Share with the UN our perspectives of human rights abuses, needs for housing, needs of special populations – the elderly, disabled, the very young.
- Share with our Servas communities what is happening at the UN, advocate implementation of the UN agenda, and monitor progress.
- Outreach and network with other NGOs in our communities and countries to further build this network of people working together for all people.

NOTE: There are 3 categories of consultative status for NGOs affiliated with ECOSOC. SI is in the "Roster" category that ECOSOC determines can make "occasional and useful contributions to the work of the Council or its subsidiary bodies".

A note from the author of this Guide: I have been a Servas member since 1995: as a host, I have made friends around the world. As a traveler, I visited countries in Asia, Europe, Africa, both Americas and New Zealand. Through travel and hosting, I learned about social needs, global concerns, and community celebrations. At home, my involvement in immigration issues, environmental concerns, and human rights has led to an interest in the UN and the need for collaboration of NGOs. In 2013, I became a Servas representative to the UN in New York City.

The Guide was developed with much assistance from Danielle Serres, Servas International Peace Secretary; Mary Jane Mikuriya, past US Servas Peace and Justice Secretary; and Daryl Ngee Chinn, US Servas. It has been approved by SI Peace Secretary.

It provides a short synopsis of the UN, the Sustainable Development Goals, links to learn more, and ways to participate as a Servas Representative to the UN. Please contact me at with questions, corrections, additions, suggestions. Together we build a peaceful and just world!
Jeanne Devine, jdevinesoll@hotmail.com

II. UNITED NATIONS

History

On October 24, 1945, the UN was founded by 51 countries as an international organization to maintain world peace and security. Its purposes are to: 1. Maintain international peace and security; 2. Develop friendly relations among nations; 3. Cooperate in solving international problems and promoting respect for human rights; 4. Be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations. It has grown to 193 member states and 2 observer states and is the only entity with global legitimacy, multilateral experience, competence, coordinating ability and impartiality.

Some Important UN Events

1945	Founding of UN	2015 was the 70th anniversary of the UN
1948	Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Paris, France	Affirms fundamental human rights without distinction of race, sex, language or religion
1968	Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, London, England	Strengthens peace through disarmament of nuclear weapons
1995	World Conference on Women, Beijing, China	Gender equality, women's empowerment
2012	Rio+20 Earth Summit- Sustainable Development, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	Led to Climate Change Convention and protection of rights of indigenous people
2015	Paris Agreement – (UNFCCC) signed by 179 countries	Combat climate change and move to low-carbon future

Locations

The UN is a global organization and works primarily in 5 geographical regions:

Americas: **New York City, US**, main headquarters of the UN and seat of *General Assembly* and *Security Council*, on internationally-owned property since 1952; **Santiago, Chile**, home to the *Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean*;

Asia and the Pacific: **Bangkok, Thailand**, home to the *Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific*

Europe and Central Asia: **Geneva, Switzerland**, regional headquarter since 1946; **Vienna, Austria**, regional headquarter since 2011; and **The Hague in the Netherlands**, seat of the International Court of Justice.

Africa: **Nairobi, Kenya**, regional headquarter since 1996 and **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

Middle East: **Beirut, Lebanon**, home to the *Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia*

Some UN specialized agencies and their locations

- *Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)* in Rome
- *International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)* in Montreal
- *International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)* in Rome
- *International Labour Organization (ILO)* in Geneva
- *International Maritime Organization (IMO)* in London
- *International Monetary Fund (IMF)* in Washington, D.C.
- *UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)* in Bangkok
- *United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)* in Paris
- *United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)* in Vienna
- *World Bank Group (WBG)* in Washington, D.C.

- *World Health Organization (WHO)* in Geneva
 - *World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)* in Madrid
- UN official languages:** English; French; Spanish, Russian; Arabic; Chinese;

UN Goals

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 2001-2015 and partial outcomes

In 2000, UN leaders of 189 countries made a commitment to eight 15-year goals – called the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The goals embraced a global partnership to promote peace and security, good governance, attention to the most vulnerable and lay the foundations for sustainable human development. By 2015, much progress was made – but much remains to be done ...

- ❖ Extreme poverty and hunger declined from 1.9 billion to 836 million.
- ❖ Universal primary education reached 90%, yet 59 million remains out of school.
- ❖ Child mortality was reduced from 12.7 to 6 million, but 6 million children under 5 died.
- ❖ Maternal mortality fell 45% since 1990, but ½ women in developing countries lack health care.
- ❖ More than 2 billion people gained access to clean drinking water, yet 2.5 billion still do not have modern sanitation.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2016-2030

In 2015, UN leaders pledged to continue the work of the MDGs with new goals for 2016-2030-called the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which address the factors necessary to eliminate war and achieve peace.** The 17 goals with 169 measurable targets are specific, realistic, and time-based. They require the input of civil society, governments, businesses and academia – all of us. Much energy now goes into implementation and measurement. We are moving forward from the global to the local level – and need to reach all 7.5 billion people. We must mobilize society and engage youth to make sure the SDGs become reality.

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>

1. End Poverty in all its forms everywhere.
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition, promote sustainable agriculture
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
4. Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
6. Ensure access to water and sanitation for all
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
8. Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
11. Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources
15. Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss
16. Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies
17. Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) at the UN

NGOs can receive consultative status, an accreditation framework that benefits both the UN and the NGOs. Substantive change is urgent and requires public awareness, input and involvement; NGOs provide analysis and hands-on experience on issues, raise public awareness of relevant issues, reach people in communities and avoid top-down decisions. More than 5000 NGOs have consultative status at the UN. NGO Reps can attend international conferences and events, make written and oral statements, organize side events, enter UN premises, and have opportunities to network and lobby. NGOs lay the groundwork for advocating public and private segments to support the financial costs necessary to achieve UN goals.

UN structure and programs (Source: United Nations System: 7/2015)

Military - <u>None</u>	17 peacekeeping operations: 113,000 men and women from Member States	Military, police, civilians voluntarily provided by countries www.un.org/en/peacekeeping
General Assembly (GA)	193 Member States make recommendations to UN Security Council	Decisions not legally binding; HQ NYC www.un.org/en/ga
<i>Human Rights Council</i>	47 Member States elected by General Assembly assess the human rights records of all Members; created 2006; HQ Geneva	Conducts 3-year Universal Periodic Reviews (UPRs); implements Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights treaties www.ohchr.org
<i>Funds and Programs</i>	<i>partial list</i>	
	UN Development Program	UNDP www.undp.org
	UN Environmental Program: Climate change, disasters, pollution, natural resources	UNEP www.unep.org
	UN Population Fund	UNFPA www.unfpa.org
	UN High Commissioner for Refugees	UNHCR www.unhcr.org
	UN Children's Fund	UNICEF www.unicef.org
	Gender equality and women's empowerment	UN Women www.unwomen.org
<i>Related Organizations</i>	International Atomic Energy Agency: peaceful use of nuclear material	IAEA www.iaea.org
	World Trade Organization	WTO: HQ: Geneva www.wto.org

Security Council	15 Members: 5 are permanent and have veto power (U.S, France, Great Britain, Russian Federation, China); 10 are elected for 2 year terms; It meets at any time; all Members must accept and carry out its decisions	Maintains international peace and security; can impose economic sanctions, diplomatic restrictions, authorize peacekeeping missions or military force
Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)	54 Member States elected by the GA coordinate economic, social and related work of functional and regional commissions and specialized agencies; provides a central forum for discussion and policy recommendations	<u>Provides an opportunity for NGOs and the UN to work towards a common global agenda. Promotes active NGO participation:</u> e.g. attend meetings, conferences, contribute oral/written statements. Meets in NY and Geneva
<i>Functional Commissions</i>	<i>Commission on Sustainable Development:</i> meets in 2-yr cycles at UN-NY	CSD www.sustainabledevelopment.un.org/csd.html
	<i>Commission on the Status of Women:</i> gender equality & advancement of women;	CSW www.unwomen.org
	Other Commissions: <i>Social Development, Population and Development, Indigenous Issues, Science and Technology for Development</i>	CSocD, COD, UNPFII, CSTD
<i>Regional Commissions</i>	<i>Economic commissions for Africa, Europe, Latin America/Caribbean, Asia/Pacific, Western Asia</i>	
<i>Specialized Agencies</i>	<i>partial list</i>	
	<i>Food and Agriculture Organization:</i> HQ: Rome, Italy	FAO www.fao.org
	<i>International Labour Organization:</i> HQ: Geneva, Switzerland	ILO www.ilo.org
	<i>International Monetary Fund:</i> HQ: Washington, D.C., US	IMF www.imf.org
	<i>Education, Science, & Cultural Organization:</i> HQ: Paris, France	UNESCO www.unesco.org
	<i>World Tourism Organization:</i> HQ: Madrid, Spain	UNWTO www.wto.org
	<i>World Bank Group:</i> HQ: Washington, D.C., US	WBG www.wbg.org
	<i>World Health Organization:</i> HQ: Geneva, Switzerland	WHO www.who.org
<i>Committees</i>	NGO branch of ECOSOC	NGO www.csonet.org

Secretariat	Secretary-General António Guterres	General administrator of UN programs and policies.
Departments & Offices	Dept of Economic and Social Affairs	DESA www.un.org/desa
	Dept of Public Information	DPI www.un.org/en/hq/dpi/
	Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights	OHCHR www.ohchr.org
	Office at Geneva, Switzerland	UNOG www.unog.ch
	Office at Nairobi, Kenya	UNON www.unon.org
	Office at Vienna, Austria	UNOV www.unvienna.org
International Court of Justice (ICJ)	15 judges elected to 9-year terms by GA and Security Council; HQ: the Hague, Netherlands; (<u>not</u> the same as Intl Criminal Court - ICC)	Settles legal disputes submitted by UN states and departments; provides advisory opinions on legal questions.

United Nations Who's Who

António Guterres, Portugal, Secretary-General 2013-present

Ban Ki-Moon, South Korea, Secretary-General 2007-2012

Kofi Annan, Ghana, Secretary-General 1997-2006

Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Egypt, Secretary-General 1992-96

Javier Perez de Cuellar, Peru, Secretary-General 1982-91

Kurt Waldheim, Austria, Secretary-General 1972-81

U Thant, Burma, Secretary-General 1962-71

Dag Hammarskjöld, Sweden, Secretary-General 1953-61

Trygve Halvdan, Norway, Secretary-General 1946-53

Eleanor Roosevelt, US First Lady (1933-45); 1947-50: promoted UN and UNA

Delegate from your country? See "Blue Book" for contact info on delegates on all countries
www.un.org/en/sections/resources/delegates/index.html

Some UN International Days www.un.org/en/sections/observances/international-days

for complete list plus resources, messages, and events

February 20	World Day of Social Justice
March 8	International Women's Day
April 22	International Mother Earth Day
May 16	International Day of Living together in Peace
June 20	World Refugee Day
July 30	International Day of Friendship
August 9	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
September 21	International Peace Day
October 24	United Nations Day
November 20	Universal Children's Day

Useful websites

- **United Nations:** www.UN.org (click on language);
- **NGO branch of ECOSOC:** www.csonet.org subscribe to monthly newsletter
- **Non-Governmental Liaison Service:** www.unngls.org; email list of info and analysis on issues like culture and education, human rights, and environment;
- **UN News:** www.news.un.org up-to-date global perspectives and human stories

- **Dept of Public Information:** outreach.un.org/ngorelations; latest news and upcoming events:
- **Meetings live and on-demand:** Webtv.un.org
- **70th Anniversary of UN,** achievements and challenges: www.un.org/un70
- **UN Wire:** un_wire@smartbrief.com daily updates

Your Library: Working with ECOSOC: an NGO's Guide to Consultative Status, download for free at www.csonet.org

III. SERVAS AT THE UNITED NATIONS

SERVAS is an international non-governmental organization (NGO) which builds world peace, goodwill and understanding by providing opportunities for personal contacts among people of different cultures, backgrounds, and nationalities. Servas was started in 1945 by peace activists. www.servas.org

SERVAS INTERNATIONAL (SI) is the international federation of national Servas groups with about 15,000 members in more than 100 countries. It received “consultative status” with UN ECOSOC in 1973 and is one of 5083 NGOs with this status. SI can have 5 representatives to the UN in New York, Geneva, and Vienna plus SI President and SI Peace Secretary (Chief Administrative Officer-CAO): a total of 7 representatives at each UN headquarter.

SERVAS representatives to the UN can contribute to the goals and programs of the UN by giving input, advocating UN goals and policies, and participating in NGO meetings. Servas reps can get annual passes to enter UN premises, attend conferences and events, make written and oral statements, organize side events, and have opportunities to network.

How to apply for a UN Grounds Pass (www.csonet.org); A UN grounds pass is required to attend any “public” meetings or NGO events at the UN at any venue. Annual passes are issued each year and are valid until Dec 31.

Register in person at:

UN-NY: Pass & ID office, ECOSOC, 350 E 45th St, New York; www.un.org, 9-4, M-Th,

UN-Geneva: Pregny Gate, Ave de la Paix 8-14, Palais des Nations, www.unog.ch, 8-5, M-F

UN-Vienna: Gate 1, Vienna International Cntr, 1400 Vienna, www.unvienna.org, 9-4, M-F

You must bring:

1. An official signed letter on SI letterhead designating you as a Servas representative; Request it from SI Peace Secretary (CAO).
2. A security form. Request it from SI Peace Secretary (CAO) (It is only available with SI log-in and password)
3. A valid Government-issued photo ID

Temporary passes for non-reps: To attend an event, only the SI Peace Secretary or SI President can request a pass, which must be for him/herself and the non-rep. The CAO or CEO doesn't need to personally attend but must request a pass. Check the status of a pass at:

<http://esango.un.org/civilsociety/newlogin.do>. Go to the UN Pass office with a letter from CAO or CEO, your security pass and photo ID.

What all SERVAS members can do:

✓ Take a 1 hour tour of the UN in NY, Geneva, Nairobi, or Vienna; available in many languages	UN-NYC is open to the public <u>only</u> as part of a guided tour; make on-line reservations 1+ mo in advance or check same-day cancellations; bring gov't-issued photo ID. www.visitun.org
✓ Network with peace & justice orgs and other NGOs	Social justice, women's issues, sustainability, and human rights

✓ Join UN events with other NGOs that are accredited by the UN	
✓ Learn about poverty, sustainability, and human rights in your country.	

Did you know?

- **Every child has the right to health, education, and protection?** Learn about UNICEF, 1959 Declaration of the Rights of the Child, 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, children and armed conflict; violence against children; children and the UN System
- **The UN aims to end the AIDS epidemic by the year 2030?**
- **Decolonization changed the face of the planet, creating more than 80 new nations.**

Learn more at un.org/en/sections/issues-depth

Commonly-used Acronyms

CSO	Civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations, along with government and business, advance UN goals.
DESA	Dept of Economic and Social Affairs
DPI	Dept of Public Information
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
GA	General Assembly of the UN
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals (2000-2015)
Member States	Countries with representation at the UN
NGO	Non-governmental organization: any non-profit, voluntary citizens' group, organized on a local, national or international level.
OHCHR	Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals (2016-2030)
UNOG	UN Office at Geneva, Switzerland
UNON	UN Office at Nairobi, Kenya
UNOV	UN Office at Vienna, Austria
UPR	Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights

IV. JOB DESCRIPTION

Servas International (SI) is an international, non-governmental, multicultural peace association run by volunteers in over 100 countries. Founded in 1949 by Bob Luitweiler as a peace movement, SI is a non-profit organization working to build understanding, tolerance and world peace. It was granted consultative status at the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 1973.

ECOSOC is the main entry point into the UN system for NGOs and provides the formal framework for NGO participation. In 1946, 41 NGOs were granted consultative status by the council; by 1992 more than 700 NGOs had attained consultative status and the number has been steadily increasing ever since to more than 5,000 organizations today. NGOs may contribute to a number of activities, including information dissemination, awareness raising, policy advocacy, joint operational projects, participation in intergovernmental processes and the contribution of services and technical expertise.

An NGO with consultative status can:

- *Attend international conferences and events*
- *Make written and oral statements at these events¹*
- *Organize side events*
- *Enter United Nations premises*
- *Have opportunities to network and lobby.*

As an NGO with consultative status, SI can request up to 5 grounds passes in each of 3 UN venues: NYC, Geneva (Human Rights Council) and Vienna. One pass is for the Main representative and up to 4 for the Additional representatives. The SI president and International Peace Secretary can also obtain grounds passes. For UNOG, NGOs may choose to entrust the Main representative with the right to request temporary ground passes.

Servas International Representatives to the UN Responsibilities, How to Apply, Qualifications

Responsibilities of SI Representatives ²

- ✓ Be informed about Servas background and prepared to give a short presentation. Promote Servas as a peace organization within the UN environment, and in communications with Servas and local communities.
- ✓ Get informed about UN history, structure, and goals and be prepared to be a UN advocate. Be familiar with human rights and social justice issues.
- ✓ Select specific topics of interest in which you want to be involved.
- ✓ Attend UN sessions regularly at least 1/year in person, others can be on-line or related. Participate in Human Rights Council at UNOG if possible.

1. Today, NGOs without a presence in Geneva can send video statements to the Human Rights Council.
2. As a reminder, this is a volunteer position, not a full-time job! Each volunteer is expected to do the best he/she can, within the framework of these guidelines.

- ✓ Obtain useful documentation and information of UN sessions/events interesting for Servas members and disseminate it to the Servas community. You are also encouraged to recommend sources of UN info to the Servas community.
- ✓ After attending UN sessions and events, submit a short report (200 words) to SI Peace Secretary to share with SI Executive Committee (EXCO) and Servas community (e.g. SI News, websites, etc). See “Submitting Articles” at www.servas.org. Include photo, headline, reason for attending, summary, how it relates to Servas, ideas for actions, your name.
- ✓ Submit short reports of your participation in UN events to your National Peace Secretary for inclusion in national Servas news.
- ✓ Attend national and/or international Servas conferences when possible.
- ✓ Meet other NGO reps to build Servas networks
- ✓ Participate in UN Day and other UN observances.
- ✓ Disseminate information of events involving peace to the National Peace Secretary and Servas community.
- ✓ Work in close collaboration with SI Peace Secretary.
- ✓ Be a mentor/contact person for any SI officer wishing to attend UN sessions.

How to Apply:

- Submit a written application which includes your involvement and current status with Servas as a host and traveller; why you are interested in being a representative to the UN; your commitment to the UN process of attaining peace and conflict resolution; the importance of Servas as an NGO at the UN.
- You will be contacted for an interview with SI Peace Secretary and asked to submit 2 letters of recommendation.
- Contact info: peacesecretary@servas.org

Qualifications:

- Active participation with Servas preferably as host and traveller
- Interest and experience of human rights and social justice issues
- Knowledge and access to modern technology – email account, cell phone, Skype, social media
- Fluent in English (strongly recommended); other languages used at the UN welcomed

Going further

- Contribute to the work of UN bodies;
- Join oral or written statements of NGOs and/or prepare written and/or oral statements (together with SI President and SI Peace Secretary);
- Organize/help organize parallel events on issues of concern for our advocacy work.

NOTE: NGOs are not representatives or agents of the UN, nor are they authorized to enter into business arrangements on behalf of the UN. Consultative status does not entitle them to special privileges, tax exemptions, diplomatic passports, etc. NGOs are not authorized to use the UN logo unless they obtain a written authorization from the UN Office of Legal Affairs.