

THE UNITED NATIONS AND ALTRUSA

Our Opportunity to Serve Others Throughout the World

In keeping with Altrusa's goal to be of service internationally and to become effective global leaders in service, it is important to recognize and utilize our linkage with the United Nations.

Since 1946, Altrusa has held observer status at the UN, and in 1978, our UN membership was upgraded to the level of an NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) in consultative status with ECOSOC (the Economic and Social Council). In this capacity, we join together with other NGOs, forming a community of NGOs called CONGO (Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations), empowered to attend and participate in UN briefings and conferences related solely to global economic and social concerns.

In each biennium, the International Board appoints representatives to attend and monitor United Nations meetings and briefings. Altrusa's representatives attend weekly briefings conducted by DPI/NGO (the UN Department of Public Information for NGOs). In addition, they can and do serve on the many NGO committees formed to further the improvement of the human condition, worldwide. Notable among these committees are the Status of Women, UNICEF (UN's Emergency Fund for Children) and UNIFEM (the UN Development Fund for Women).

Altrusa values its presence at the United Nations as it enables us to be counted among those organizations dedicated to the service of mankind. Individual Altrusans and clubs, in their support of the UN and the humanitarian work it does through its affiliated committees, can greatly contribute to the alleviation of suffering in the poorest and most trouble regions of the world. We can further demonstrate our commitment to the global community by celebrating and supporting those Decades and Days of Observance that have been set aside by the United Nations.

Altrusa's representatives at the UN are happy to assist the membership in procuring information about the UN and its activities. Additionally, instant communication with the UN via its website, available in six official languages, is an incomparable resource for United Nations issues and events: www.un.org