



SPECIAL REPORT

As many of you know, IWCNE is a member of Welcome Clubs International (WCI), a network of women's clubs all over the world. The current President of WCI is our own member Linda Anderson. The WCI Liaison is Margarete Claesson.

What does Welcome Club International's Evolving Relationship with the United Nations Mean for IWCNE?

Maria Fernanda Arduino, UN Council Director, gave a very informative presentation at the Webinar put on by WCI on November 1, 2021, regarding our Consultative Status to the UN.

She explained that it was WCI's spiritual willingness and teamwork to keep WCI growing that awarded WCI with the Consultative Status to the UN.

The UN is made of 6 different divisions:

- 1 General Assembly
- 2 UN Secretariat
- 3 International Court of Justice
- 4 UN Security Council
- 5 UN Economic and Social Council
- 6 UN Trusteeship (inactive at this time)

We would consult the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in fields of our expertise when it comes to sustainable goals aiming to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for everyone by 2030. Sustainable goals are divided up in 17 categories. Among them is, of course, education for women and children.

What is Special Consultative Status?

It is the highest status granted by the UN to non governmental organizations.

What are the primary benefits to WCI for Special Consultative Status?

WCI can designate official representatives including members from the executive committee, board of directors, and WCI members to participate in global events, conferences, and activities of the UN. WCI can create educational partnerships with other women focused global non-governmental organizations that contribute to the work of both the UN and WCI.

What are our responsibilities to ECOSOC for our Consultative Status?

1. Every 4 years WCI must submit what is known as a quadrennial report, which states WCI activities in support of the work of ECOSOC and the UN.
2. WCI cannot engage in acts contrary to the purpose and principles of the Charter of the UN.
3. WCI cannot receive any proceeds resulting from internationally recognized criminal activities such as illicit drugs trade, money laundering or illegal arms trade.
4. WCI should make a positive and effective contribution to ECOSOC within the first 3 years.
5. WCI must participate in UN conferences and settings
6. WCI's program of work should have direct relevance to the aims and purpose of the UN.

How is the relationship with the UN evolving over the next few years?

2022 we will face what we call “the learning stages”. We will participate in sessions and learn. We will begin our plans by developing relationships with other international organizations with similar interests and worldviews.

2023 we will start giving presentations at the UN sessions in New York about our existing Sister Club projects in our regions and are looking to our Sister Clubs Presidents to do that. The focus of each presentation will be to inform about WCI’s work in our areas of expertise, which are “Friendship, Understanding and Education”.

2024 we will submit our first quadrennial report and partner with other international organizations and hopefully present a parallel event with one of them.

Can a WCI Sister Club choose to not participate in UN events?

Each club can choose what to do and is completely independent. WCI does, however, want to encourage each club to participate since each club has a lot to contribute.

Above report is an abbreviated version of a 6 page report. Please contact our President Cindy Sayers or myself if you have further questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Margareta Claesson

A Message from Linda Anderson:

Please see the notice below, which describes an upcoming WCI webinar open to all WCI members (not just the Board of Directors and Executive Committee). We are so fortunate to have this global expert on women's rights speak to our members. She is a sought-after speaker, having won numerous international awards. She's also a regular contributor to CNN, the New York Times, and many other news outlets.

“To start an exciting new year, it is a great pleasure to announce our new REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES program, a series of webinars focusing on various WCI regions around the world.

Our first Regional Perspectives program will be on **February 14, 2022 at 9:00 AM EST** featuring the MIDDLE EAST, with the renowned speaker Dr. Lina AbiRafeh, one of the leading experts on women's issues in the Arab region.“

This webinar is open to all WCI Sister Clubs and their memberships.

The Registration Deadline is February 9. Registration information will be sent in a weekly IWCNE message or contact Margarete at maaclaesson@gmail.com

Mark your calendars and don't miss out on this highly informative and interesting webinar. More information to follow shortly.

