



# NewsLetter

## WORLD SAFETY ORGANIZATION



www.worldsafety.org

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# The United Nations and NGOs

*Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have been partners of the Department of Public Information (DPI) since its establishment in 1947. Official relationships between DPI and NGOs date back to 1968. The Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1297 called on DPI to associate NGOs with effective information programs in place and thus disseminate information about issues on the UN's agenda and the work of the Organization. Through associated NGOs DPI seeks to reach people around the world and help them better understand the work and aims of the United Nations.*

*In 1987 the WSO applied for and was awarded Consultative Status, Category 2 (non-governmental), with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. At that time, 157 Missions of the United Nations were awarded Honorary Membership in the WSO for their support of the WSO programs.*

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have been actively engaged with the United Nations (UN) since its inception in 1945. They work with the United Nations Secretariat, programmes, funds and agencies in various ways, including in consultation with Member States. NGOs contribute to a number of activities including information dissemination, awareness raising, development education, policy advocacy, joint operational projects, participation in intergovernmental processes and in the contribution of services and technical expertise.



**Headquarters of the United Nations in New York, USA**

withdrawal or suspension of consultative status, the role and functions of the ECOSOC Committee on NGOs, and the responsibilities of the UN Secretariat in supporting the consultative relationship.

The United Nations has been working to strengthen cooperation with NGOs across the entire United Nations system and in all areas of its work. As a result, United Nations entities are identifying new modalities to promote increased and more strategic participation of NGOs.

Article 71 of the United Nations Charter, which established the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), states the following:

*The Economic and Social Council may make suitable arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations which are concerned with matters within its competence. Such arrangements may be made with international organizations and, where appropriate, with national organizations after consultation with the Member of the United Nations concerned.*

— United Nations Charter, Chapter X, Article 71

Article 71 of the UN Charter opened the door to provide suitable arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations. The consultative relationship with ECOSOC is governed today by ECOSOC resolution 1996/31, which outlines the eligibility requirements for consultative status, rights and obligations of NGOs in consultative status, procedures for the

The necessity for strengthening UN/NGOs relations has been underlined in various documents, in particular in the Millennium Declaration in September 2000. The commitment of Member States to provide greater opportunity to NGOs was reaffirmed in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document and in General Assembly resolution 68/1 on strengthening of ECOSOC. The importance of a revitalized Global Partnership to implement the internationally agreed development goals was further stressed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted at the Sustainable Development Summit in 2015. From the beginning, ECOSOC has been the main entry point into the UN system for NGOs. ECOSOC remains the only main UN body with a 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 over 4,900 organizations in 2018.



**Flags of the 193 Member States of the United Nations**



**Welcome** to this “Special Edition” Newsletter dedicated to our Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) status and relationship with the United Nations (UN). I think you will find a lot of useful and informative information contained herein.

We have included our Quadrennial Report to the UN showing the activities in which our Representatives and Liaisons have participated in support of our UN NGO status. We truly appreciate their volunteer time and effort that allows us to maintain our long-standing status with the UN.

This is also my opportunity to remind everyone to talk to your colleagues and associates about World Safety Organization and all the benefits it offers to safety professionals. WSO is always working to increase its membership, and you can help in that task by promoting WSO membership and certification.

Thank you all for your help in making World Safety Organization the success it is today. As always, please let us know by email or phone if you have questions or comments. We are always available to assist.

And remember....**Safety First!** [CHB]

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## Basic Facts about ECOSOC Status

- As of 1 September 2018, 5,161 NGOs enjoy active consultative status with ECOSOC.
- There are three types of consultative status: General, Special and Roster. Most new accreditations are in the Special category.
- Consultative status provides NGOs with access to not only ECOSOC, but also to its many subsidiary bodies, to the various human rights mechanisms of the United Nations, ad-hoc processes on small arms, as well as special events organized by the President of the General Assembly. See News and Events for samples.
- ECOSOC accreditation is separate and distinct from NGOs who are associated the UN Department of Public Information (DPI).
- You can sort and review all NGOs with ECOSOC consultative status in an online database.
- General and special status NGOs are required to submit a ‘quadrennial report’ every four years.
- The Committee on NGOs reviews new applications for consultative status twice a year, in January (‘regular session’) and in May (‘resumed session’).
- The Committee does not decide but recommends. These recommendations, contained in one report for the January session and one report for the May session, are reviewed by ECOSOC in June and July respectively.
- In most cases, ECOSOC decides to approve the recommendations. In very rare cases, it does not.
- The deadline for applications is 1 June of the year before the Committee reviews the application. Therefore the upcoming deadline for new applications is 1 June 2020. New applications submitted by the 1 June 2020 deadline will be reviewed by the Committee in 2021.



# WSO's Representatives to the United Nations



## **Prof. Dr. Elias M. Choueiri**

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## **Engr. Alfredo A. De La Rosa, Jr.**

*WSO President-Director General; Director, WSO International Office for Philippines; WSO Board of Directors*  
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Liaison to the United Nations in New York (USA)



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Liaison to the United Nations Headquarters in New York (USA)



## **Soji S. Olalokun**

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Representative to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific



## **Dr. Michael L. Thomas**

*Safety Manager, Federal Aviation Administration; Chairperson, WSO Certification Board; WSO Board of Directors; Chairperson, WSO Aviation Transportation Committee; Chairperson, WSO Transportation Safety Division*  
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Liaison to the United Nations Headquarters in New York (USA)

# WSO's Quadrennial Report to the United Nations

*Submitted 1 June 2019 for the 2015–2018 Reporting Period*

## Introduction

The World Safety Organization (WSO) was founded in Manila, the Republic of the Philippines, in 1975 as a result of a gathering of over 1,000 representatives of Safety Professionals from all continents at the first World Safety and Accident Prevention Congress.

Headquartered in Missouri USA since 1985, the WSO is a global community dedicated to “Making Safety a Way of Life ... Worldwide.” Having National Offices and Chapters in over 20 countries, WSO has the reputation and reach to bring together diverse safety professionals and practitioners who are transforming the world's corporations, organizations, and communities to meet tomorrow's critical challenges.

The WSO works to internationalize occupational and environmental safety and health and other allied safety fields together with an accident prevention movement and to disseminate throughout the world the benefits of practices, skills, arts, and technologies of safety and accident prevention in all safety and related fields.

## Aims and Purposes of the Organization

The WSO supports activities of other national and international groups in their attempts to protect people, property, resources, and the environment. The specific objectives of the organization are: encouraging the effective exchange of information and experiences between and among the members of the WSO; striving for a universal level of professionalism and competence among its members and all professionals and practitioners in the multi-discipline of occupational and environmental safety, health, and accident prevention; collaborating with other international organizations in conducting activities of mutual concern; promoting the continuous upgrade of safety and accident prevention technology; and advancing WSO's overall theme of “Making Safety a Way of Life ... Worldwide.”

There are numerous ways the WSO achieves its goals, most notably through trainings and workshops offered by the WSO International and National Offices around the world.



WSO Nigeria's SafERR Program

the World Safety Organization programs and benefits, and leadership development.

The WSO National Office for Nigeria takes her “Safety and Emergency Response Ready” program into schools, campuses, and communities teaching them about safety and emergency response readiness,

The WSO National Office for KSA offers free trainings and other workshops in addition to their paid training programs.



Senior High School Students of the International Philippines School of Jeddah who participated in WSO KSA's Free Basic Fire Safety Course

The WSO International Office for Philippines conducts monthly safety and health training for Philippine workers transitioning into contract positions in the Middle East and beyond.

The educational sessions of the WSO's annual Environmental and Occupational Safety and Health Professional Development Symposium are captured on video and posted for free access on the WSO's YouTube channel.

The WSO uses its electronic and social media platforms to distribute informative monthly newsletters, quarterly journals, and frequent announcements to members and non-members alike. Additionally, the WSO often endorses international safety, health, and security conferences, trainings, and workshops, promoting these events through the above-mentioned platforms to WSO members and non-members around the world. WSO members often participate in these events as speakers, participants, and collaborators, and as consultants on occasion.

In addition to the WSO-specific safety, health, and security information, the WSO also distributes the weekly announcements, invitations, etc., of the United Nations to the representatives/liaisons, members of the WSO Board of Directors, and other interested individuals.

## Significant Changes in the Organization

There have been no significant changes in the vision or structure of the Organization; however, the WSO's Professional Safety Certification Program was accredited to ISO/IEC 17024:2012 by the International Certification Accreditation Council (ICAC) in August 2017.

The WSO is an Affiliate Member of the Asia Pacific Occupational Safety and Health Organization (APOSHO), serving on the Technical Committee and attending the 33rd Conference in December 2018, and an Institutional Member of Workplace Advocates on Safety in the Philippines, Inc. Additionally, the WSO was awarded the 2018 Golden Lamp Award from the Occupational Health Nurses Association of the Philippines (photo on next page).



Representatives of WSO International Office for Philippines at the 30th Annual APOSHO Conference in Seoul, Korea, 5/31–6/4, 2015





Edwin A. Inciong, Jr., OHANAP National President, Ms. Ma. Blanca P. Beltran, Convention Chairperson, Engr. Alfredo A. De La Rosa, Jr., WSO Vice President-Deputy Director General\* and Ms. Nelly G. Capistrano, National Deputy Treasurer

Through these associations, the Director of the WSO International Office for Philippines and his staff promote not only the programs of the WSO, but also those of the United Nations and its Bodies.

## Contributions of the Organization to the Work of the UN

A WSO Global Safety Roundtable Discussion is held annually at the beginning of the WSO Professional Development Symposium program. Discussions include topics ranging from the plight of refugees to safety of the aging population, as well as other health and workplace safety related issues. Information on the work of the United Nations is also discussed. Reports on these discussions are submitted to the United Nations either by direct correspondence or by one of the WSO's Representatives.

Other activities of the WSO do not directly focus on advancing the achievement of the development agenda of ECOSOC and the United Nations at large, but rather on supporting the overall development agenda through advocacy and outreach utilizing all previously-mentioned platforms used by the Organization.

## Participation in Meetings of the United Nations

A Representative contacted Mr. Said Dahdah, Transport Specialist with the World Bank Group, numerous times to consult on the following, which were attended by our Representative: a regional workshop titled "How to Improve Road Safety and Reduce Fatalities" 27-28 November 2018 in Beirut; an international conference on "Financing Sustainable Development," 16 November 2018 in Beirut; and a symposium on women and water security for peacebuilding highlights and important interlinkages in the Arab region, 16 May 2018.

A Representative participated in consultative meetings during 2018 of the Safeyouth@Work campaign sponsored by the United Nations/International Labour Organization.

A Representative was a registered delegate at the following: Prince Mahidol Award Conference 2018, "Making the World Safe from Threats of Emerging Infectious Diseases," 29 January -3 February 2018, Bangkok, Thailand; Third Regional Forum of World Health Organization Collaborating Centres in the Western Pacific, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, 22-23 November 2018.

A Representative visited the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) in Canberra, Australia, in December 2018.

\* Engr. Alfredo A. De La Rosa, Jr., is now WSO's President-Director General.



Prof. Dr. Elias M. Choueiri at the 2017 UN International Day of Democracy

A Representative attended the International Day of Democracy, "Democracy and Conflict Prevention," 15 September 2017, Room XII Palais Des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.

A Representative attended the following meetings in 2017: "Challenges Associated with Conflict and the 2030 Development Agenda," 6-7 November 2017, Beirut, Lebanon; Third Review of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Aging in Arab Countries, 3 August 2017, Beirut, Lebanon.

A Representative participated in consultation meetings 29 May through 2 June 2017 for the International Labour Organization's Youth4OSH program in the Philippines.

A Representative attended/observed the following meetings/events during 2017: The 17th Meeting of the Western Pacific Regional Programme Review Group on Neglected Tropical Diseases, 15-16 June 2017, in Siem Reap, Cambodia; Digital Library Launch WHOCC AUS-68 and celebration of 20 years of the WHOCC AUS-68, 11 August 2017; and UNESCO World Teachers Day (Australia), 27 October 2017.

Representatives attended the 66th United Nations DPI/NGO Conference held 30 May-1 June 2016 in Gyeongju, Republic of Korea.

A Representative attended the 2nd Regional Forum of WHOCCs in the Western Pacific, 28-29 November 2016, in Manila, Philippines.

A Representative participated in the Third United Nations Global Road Safety Week 2015: ESCWA Regional Workshop on Road Safety, 27-29 May 2015, in Beirut, Lebanon.

WSO Staff, Representatives/Liaisons, and other interested persons affiliated with WSO frequently participate in meetings, workshops, and other events through utilization of the United Nations' WebTV platform.



Jean-Marie Alexis De La Rosa and Engr. Alfredo A. De La Rosa, Jr., at the 66th United Nations DPI/NGO Conference



# Quadrennial Report Continued

## Cooperation with United Nations Bodies

Since 2015, the WSO National Office for Nigeria has partnered with the United Nations Information Center in Lagos, Nigeria, in organizing and promoting the International Labour Organization's "World Day for Safety and Health at Work." The annual commemoration grew from one location in 2015 to ten locations in 2018. In recent years, other WSO National Offices, Members, and other interested parties have participated with their own events.

A Representative in Australia maintains a longtime cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization (Collaborating Centres).

A Representative in Lebanon maintains a longtime consulting relationship with Mr. Said Dahdah, a Transport Specialist with the World Bank Group.



Kristiana Varkalhoff (far right), daughter of WSO Member Norris Varkalhoff (WSO Southwest Florida Chapter), and members of her school's safety club

organization of a WSO Student Chapter at the participant's school as well.



## Initiatives Taken by the Organization in Support of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and/or the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Representatives visited the United Nations Headquarters in New York City on May 4, 2016, to inquire about directions which the Organization should take to further promote the WSO's proclamation and designation of November 8 as "World Disaster Preparedness Day" in remembrance of the 2013 natural disaster in the Philippines where 6300 persons were killed by Typhoon Yolanda (Haian).



World Disaster Preparedness Day Commitment Wall on display during the 28th WSO Symposium, Manila, Philippines

The WSO's annual Symposium always includes educational sessions that are in support of various Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the quarterly WSO World Safety Journal includes papers on topics that are in direct relation to the MDGs/SDGs.

Other activities of the WSO do not focus on specific initiatives in fulfillment of the MDGs/SDGs, but rather on supporting the overall development agenda through advocacy and outreach utilizing all previously outlined platforms at the Organization's disposal.



WSO Liaisons to the United Nations, Juan Carlos Ocasio (USA) and Engr. Alfredo A. De La Rosa, Jr. (Philippines), register for their annual passes to attend events and meetings at the New York Headquarters



**"Making Safety a Way of Life...Worldwide" since 1975**

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