

## **Minutes to UN/NGO (Lions international Relations) Workshop**

**Committee Chairperson** PID Howard Lee  
**Secretary** PDG Evan Jones

**Core Message:** **Lions Working Together with the United Nations**

**Purpose:** Lions Clubs International has held consultative status to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (UN) since the UN formation in 1945. However, we Lions are practical people who need to see, and identify with, the good that we are doing for the community, and for the less fortunate, locally and globally. This workshop will concentrate on discussing practical ways that Lions Clubs and Districts can be involved in working with the UN and its agencies to bring tangible benefits to those in need.

### **Agenda Item 1 - Welcome & Introduction by Chairperson PID Howard Lee**

PID Howard Lee opened the meeting by welcoming everyone present.

He explained that there are eight different LCI representatives to the various UN offices - reports had been received from 6 of them & were attached to these Minutes - also apologies had been received from those not present either because they had not been able to attend Forum or were otherwise engaged at other meetings this morning.

### **Agenda Item 2 - Updates to Reports, Proposals for Action & Discussion**

#### **UN Geneva - PID Howard Lee**

Report attached - PID Howard stated that he was the LCI representative for the contact with the UN Geneva Office & that it had intensified as a result of the growing Refugee crises in Europe albeit there had been other areas of discussion - at all times he was striving to ensure that any LCI involvement must be in a practical & physical manner rather than simply the donation of funds or resources alone.

- a) Refugees
- b) AIDS
- c) Centennial celebrations

PID Howard explained that he intended to deal with the aspects arising from the Refugee situation as a separate topic under Agenda Item 3 rather than UNAIDS which he would deal with at this point in the meeting.

#### **AIDS**

UNAIDS is an umbrella organisation for a total of 11 organisations & NGOs fighting AIDS with the intent of attempting to eradicate it by 2030. Initially he had confined his input to explaining that it was his view that Education was the most important factor and in this respect the Lions Quest programmes could be a significant aspect in providing a foundation to make ongoing progress.

#### **Centennial**

Europa Forum in 2017 would be held in Montreux and it was his intention that to try and arrange an LCI UN Day in Geneva to correspond with the Forum.

### **UN Vienna - PID Ernst Musil**

Report attached - this office is the HQ for the UN's fight against drugs & crime and again the Lions Quest program could be used as the foundation to introduce programs into the Balkans and eventually into other countries as well.

There followed as a general discussion on national programs similar to the Lions Quest program.

The representative from LCIF explained grants could be available for the introduction of Lions Quest programs.

### **WHO - PID Dr Domenico Messina**

Report attached - at present the main concentration is with the Measles Campaign. This is of course one of the main LCIF programmes and again a contribution from the LCIF representative stated that Lions in clubs in Africa had been active in promoting vaccination programs and it was hoped that similar action would be possible at similar parts of Europe where it is needed.

It was anticipated the next big program would be effort to control cancer.

PIP Grimaldi spoke highly of the effectiveness of WHO in fighting diseases.

### **UNICEF - ID Robert Rettby**

Apologies had been received from ID Robert Rettby, who was involved with another meeting at the forum.

LCI's main involvement with UNICEF was in the distribution of Edukits which are boxes containing school resources for up to 40 students. (Cost \$200 each) - there is now a primary school kit available as well.

### **UNESCO - PCC Daniel Gontier**

Report attached - looking to introducing the Lions Reading Action Program but must ensure that Lions work with UNESCO and just not provide funds.

PIP Grimaldi stated that he had reservations about the potential effectiveness of UNESCO.

### **Council of Europe - PID Ermanno Bocchini**

No Report submitted - apologies from PID Ermanno Bocchini

### **FAO - PID Emmano Bocchini**

Report from PID Massimo Fabio attached - PID Fabio updated his report by explaining in more detail the outcome of the EXPO 2015 at Milan during which an accord had been signed with LCI a natural outcome given that the principles of both organisations in respect of the alleviation of the problems associated with hunger & malnutrition.

### **UN-WOMEN - PID Claudette Cornet**

Report attached - again Lions Quest programs had the potential for laying the foundation of an ongoing relationship between our two organisations in respect of Women.

## **LCI-European Union Steering Committee - PID Philippe Gerondale**

Report not submitted & apologies received from PID Gerondale

This is not specifically a UN Project & as such PIP Grimaldi counselled caution because of the potential political overtones involved.

### **Agenda Item 3 - now Possible new Lions/UN collaboration on Refugees**

PID Howard stated that the UN was deeply involved through the The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), also known as the UN Refugee Agency, it is a United Nations agency mandated to protect and support refugees at the request of a government or the UN itself and assists in their voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement to a third country. As its HQ is in Geneva it had become his responsibility to establish a relationship for developing LCI's collaboration with the UN in respect of LCI having an input to alleviating the humanitarian calamities that were beginning to occur because of the growing conflicts in Africa & the Middle East.

He went on to stress once again that it was with a view of making it clear to the UN that LCI involvement had to be in such a manner that there was a clear Lions Identity with very apparent Measurable Results.

At the present time UNHCR were involved in 2 particular aspects;-

- a) Middle East - there was \$218m available & this would be used to provide physical relief items and resources to meet winter conditions in the camps within the countries & those adjacent to the conflicts in the Region.
- b) Europe - there is at present only \$30m available to service a programme supposedly in place until December 2016 - clearly this is inadequate for a situation that is worsening on a daily basis - UNHCR is in process of gathering information from the European nations directly impacted - it is the most ideally placed organisation to offer an advisory & co-ordination role particularly in respect of Reception procedures at points of entry - it is made more difficult because of the number of countries involved all of which have different degrees of Governmental involvement.

In particular it should also be remembered that whilst we are seeing evidence of the growing crisis outside of Syria on a daily & weekly basis there are over 4 times that number of displaced persons in camps within Syria itself.

LCIF as we know have now become actively involved with an initial Grant of \$200k & the opening of a Refugee Appeal - giving aid in the form of physical resources to the displaced persons in the camps in Syria & its neighbouring countries might be the best way of LCI becoming immediately involved in the short term notwithstanding that there obviously long term issues that will have to be resolved.

The situation is also complicated by the fact that amongst the genuine Refugees there is also a significant number of economic Migrants who are exploiting the Refugee situation.

### **Agenda Item 4 - Question & Answer**

There had been extensive question & answer discussions as each Topic was highlighted.

## **Agenda Item 5 - Closing Remarks**

LCI has been associated with the UN since 1945 and as both organisations are World Leaders in the provision of humanitarian services we must continue to work together.

PID Howard thanked all those present (16 in total) for their attendance & input.

## **Lions Clubs International Relationship with United Nations Europa Forum 2015**

The relationship between Lions Clubs International and the UN began in San Francisco, California, USA, on 24 October, 1945 (forever known as UN Day), when US President Harry Truman joined Britain's Prime Minister Winston Churchill and other world leaders in signing the UN charter. In the same year, Lions founder Melvin Jones and Past International Presidents Fred W. Smith and D.A. Skeen were asked to help develop the non-governmental organization (NGO) charter for the new global organization. Since then, our two great organizations have cooperated on many humanitarian ventures. For instance, Lions have provided aid and manpower for UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), WHO (World Health Organization), and UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) projects.

The best-known activities of the United Nations (UN) are conducted through its Security Council, which has direct responsibility for the first purpose of the United Nations, "To maintain international peace and security." Lions Clubs International has no relationship with the Security Council. It is not the policy of Lions Clubs International to endorse particular resolutions or actions of the United Nations taken to further this first stated purpose of the UN.

With regard to the second and third stated purposes of the UN, "To develop friendly relations among nations" and "To achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character ..." comparison is drawn with the Third Purpose of Lions Clubs International, "To create and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world." These second and third purposes of the UN are conducted through its Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), one of the main bodies of the United Nations, which is concerned primarily with advancing the welfare of all human beings. Article 71 of the Charter of the United Nations states:-

"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."

Lions Clubs International has been involved with UN since 1946, supports the UN ideal of a world at peace, and enjoys consultative status with ECOSOC. Lions are encouraged to be informed, to support, and to promulgate information about the UN, its humanitarian objectives and the work of its agencies, especially in public observances of United Nations Day on October 24 and Lions Day with the United Nations, held in various locations in late February or early March each year.

The International President annually appoints representatives to UN agencies, such as ECOSOC, UN Geneva, UN Vienna, WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO, Council of Europe, FAO, UNEP, UNA-USA, UNDP and UN Women. Eight of these representatives are based in Europe, and all eight are invited to make presentations and updates on their activities at the UN/NGO Workshop at the Europa Forum each year. Also invited to participate is the Lions Clubs International Chairman of the European Union Steering Committee.

Whilst the United Nations head office is in New York, USA, their largest office is based in Geneva, Switzerland, and details of the operations of that office are attached.

The United Nations system includes a large number of intergovernmental organizations, specialized agencies, programmes, funds, offices and research institutes as well as related organizations. Two thirds of the activities of the United Nations system take place in Geneva, making it a key centre of international co-operation and multilateral negotiation. This is one of the reasons that the city is often referred to as "International Geneva".

Around 9,500 staff members work for the United Nations family in Geneva, which is the largest concentration of United Nations personnel in the world. They are active in many of the major fields of work of the United Nations, including health; labour; intellectual property; human rights; humanitarian action and disaster relief; economic, trade and development activities; disarmament efforts; science and technology; as well as research and training.

UNOG cooperates closely with the United Nations entities in Geneva, including in providing administrative and conference services support.

The list below reflects links to websites of United Nations organizations, including Specialized Agencies, Programmes, Funds, Initiatives, Joint Programmes, and related organizations of the United Nations system with a presence in Geneva. The list is not necessarily exhaustive, nor indicative of the status of each entity.

For a video on the work of UN Geneva, please go to:

[http://www.unog.ch/80256EE600580270/\(httpHomepages\)/451CD0DD8D177D6780256F040066CF64?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/80256EE600580270/(httpHomepages)/451CD0DD8D177D6780256F040066CF64?OpenDocument)

- Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- International Bureau of Education (IBE)
- International Computing Centre (ICC)
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- International Trade Centre (ITC)
- Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)
- Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
- Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR)
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC)
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)
- United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
- United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)
- United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS)
- United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near-East (UNRWA)
- United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)
- United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP)
- United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB)
- United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN)
- United Nations Volunteers Programme (UNV)
- Universal Postal Union (UPU)
- World Bank
- World Food Programme (WFP)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- World Trade Organization (WTO)

## **Lions Clubs International Representative to UN in Geneva Report to Europa Forum October 2015**

I am honoured to have been asked once again to take up the position of LCI Representative to UN in Geneva (UNOG). I have established a number of very useful contacts in UNOG with whom to work, and I am in the process of identifying areas where UN interests coincide with the activities and interests of Lions.

We Lions are generally very practical in our work, and we need to see concrete results for our efforts. Therefore, I believe our relationship with UN should be as practical as possible and, to this end, the items on which I am working are:-

One of the biggest concerns in Europe at present is the Migration Crisis, especially relating to the huge influx of refugees from Syria and other Middle East countries. LCIF has set up a designated disaster fund to fight the crisis, and ways are being sought for Lions to bring relief to at least some of the victims. I have been asked to investigate the possibility of our working with UN to deliver help where it is most needed. The relevant UN body is the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), and I am in dialogue with UNHCR. I have details of their main programmes to alleviate the crisis, and their representative has offered to meet and discuss how we could work with them to establish a project with a Lions identity and with measurable results.

On a recent visit to UNOG, I met with representatives of UNAIDS, which is an umbrella organisation of 11 Non-Governmental Organisations working to combat aids. Their overall aim is to control aids by the year 2030, and they were interested in exploring how Lions could help. This is a difficult area, and the fight against aids often has political or moral undertones, and we must avoid involvement in such areas. However, one of the main weapons in the fight against aids is education, and in this we may be able to help. Initially, I am investigating how the Lions Quest programmes might be employed in this context, and there are several other Lions programmes (e.g. Women's Rights, Micro-Financing, etc.) which might also be useful.

I have helped to arrange several visits to UNOG by parties of Lions, including one that was part of the programme of activities for a Lions Youth Camp.

I am investigating the possibility of holding a grand Lions Day with UNOG as part of our centennial celebrations.

I have had several very helpful Skype calls and meetings with PIP Al Brandel, Representative to UN in New York, and with other LCI Representatives to the UN in USA and in Europe, some of whom have given me a summary of their roles and actions, which I have found very useful and interesting. I am always willing to assist my fellow Lions working with the various UN departments or agencies as they may require.

PID Howard Lee  
LCI Representative to UN Geneva  
6 October 2015

**Ernst A. Musil**  
**Past International Director**  
**Representative to the UNO-Vienna**

**Vienna, September 2015**

**REPORT ABOUT THE COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS-VIENNA**

As the representative of Lions Clubs International at the United Nations in Vienna I am pleased to give you a short report about our cooperation. Vienna is one of the 4 headquarters, where 16 UN- organizations are located. The most important counterpart for us is the UNODC (United Nations Office on Drug and Crime), since it especially deals with problems of the society and the future of our youth worldwide. This is in close connection also to our endeavors to care for a good development and future of young people.

One of the problems we face today (and since many years) is drug abuse, which in some parts of the world could be reduced, in some others the problem is increasing. Especially with our program "LIONS QUEST" teaching young people life skills we offer a program which is not only recognized by the United Nations, but is more and more welcomed and accepted by the member states. It's not an easy task to make the official – political – representatives aware of our program and it takes a lot of time and needs good contacts to the diplomats. Many of the states have their own programs, more or less successful. Word of mouth is best to make LIONS QUEST well known.

During the last 12 months we had more than 10 meetings and additionally the 58th session of UNODC, where approximately 400 representatives from 195 countries and many NGO's took part. I am assisted by Lion Walter Goetz, since some of the important meetings are on the same day and hour. Since Executive Director and representative of Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, Mr. Yury Fedotov took over chairmanship of the UNO-Vienna many things have changed to the positive. He is very much interested that NGO's are more involved in the deliberations and decisions. LCI has a special status in Vienna and is always welcomed. We had the chance also to have Matthew Kiefer from Oak Brook with us in Vienna, who negotiated with UN to start a pilot project for the Balkan countries, especially Serbia, introducing Lions Quest program in those countries. LCI supports this project with US\$ 300.000,- - Macedonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina will follow. Matthew gave also a very impressive presentation during a workshop with the NGO committee. For next year we plan to have a LCI booth during the one week general session of UNODC.

Since we have good contacts to the various diplomats of the UN we can be a bridge between Lions countries/Districts who want to implement LQ and have not enough support from the country's officials. Please contact me in such a case.

Additionally to the UNODC meetings we hold every year a Lions Day with the United Nations, always very well attended by high ranked officials of the UN, diplomats, members of the government of Austria and outstanding speakers. This year we held the meeting in a house of the Parliament and had as speaker a famous abbot from Austria, Maximilian FUERNSSINN, who spoke about LIONS as BIOTOPE of HOPE in the world.

Next year we consider inviting Lions from Europe (with simultaneous translation). It could be an European LIONS DAY WITH THE UNITED NATIONS, eventually together with Geneva, the other main headquarter in Europe. I will discuss this with PID Howard Lee. We had already a worldwide LD with the UN in Vienna.

Some WEB-sites where you can get additional detailed information:

WORLD DRUG REPORT 2015:

[http://www.unodc.org/documents/wdr2015/World\\_Drug\\_Report\\_2015.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/wdr2015/World_Drug_Report_2015.pdf)

PROGRAM OF THE 58th SESSION – March 2015

[https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/session/58\\_Session\\_2015/CND-58-Session\\_Index.html](https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/session/58_Session_2015/CND-58-Session_Index.html)

REPORT OF THE VIENNA NGO COMMITTEE

<http://www.vngoc.org/images/uploads/file/CND%202015/Guide%20to%20CND%202015%2020150223.pdf>



**Lions Clubs International**  
**300 22nd Street/Oak Brook, Illinois 60521 - 8842, U.S.A. (630) 571.5466**

**Dott. Domenico Messina**

**Europa Forum – Augsburg - 11 October 2015**  
**Report about World Health Organization (WHO)**

The World Health Organization, as is known, is an intergovernmental organization that is part of the United Nations system. WHO is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system. It is responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends.

Lions Clubs International have collaborated with the World Health Organization for nearly 30 years. The two organizations have worked very closely on several successful initiatives, particularly in the area of blindness prevention, that have benefitted the lives of millions around the world.

The last agreement between WHO and LCI signed in December 2011 (IP Wing-Kun Tam) and it is valid until December 2016.

A result of this agreement is the elimination of blinding trachoma in China and the projects for childhood blindness. In these years we will have created 55 referral centers for childhood blindness in the world, in 45 countries where there was nothing (and even children remained operable blinds). A great success; with our work we created a very significant impact on the health of population worldwide.

In May 2015 I met Dr. Silvio Mariotti, Senior Medical Officer, Ophthalmologist Prevention of Blindness and Deafness on World Health Organization; with him I discussed and detailed the possible development of future relations between LCI and WHO, and I will meet him in May 2016 in Geneva during 138th Session of Executive Board WHO.

My personal commitment addressed to possibility for LCI of further visibility on WHO.

I think that it's very useful for LCI to create a publication with the World Health Organization that illustrates the projects which we are engaged, the needed results and goals yet to be achieved.

Another area of our work with WHO is the measles vaccination.

We are committed to give vaccines for poor people but also to inform and sensitize people in rich countries in favor of the vaccination against rubella and measles.

For this motivation WHO called us to participate to the meeting on 9 to 11 March 2015 to Rome at the Ministry of Health and at the National Institute of Health of Italy for the problem of adherence to the vaccination campaign for measles and rubella. WHO through LCIF has requested the support of the Italian Lions (PID Messina as Representative WHO, ID Fresia and Lion Balducci representative LCIF).

It was really productive meeting for WHO and all the representative delegations belong the Ministry and the Health Superior Institute .

We point out our possibility in each District to reach both the medical system dedicated to support the vaccination's utility and the educational plan into the school to inform young people about this.

We fixed a touch point with the Chiefs of Health Ministry and the National Centre for Epidemiology & Promotion, so it's our mission to focus our future job first to write a common agreement with them, second to work with MD 108 level in charge to apply a capillary action into every town.

It's an ambitious goal but our interface WHO, like dr. Cooper and dr. Shefer, encourage our effort and commitment with the community so we promise to do our best to make shine one more time our Association.

I also are in contact with Dr. Andrea Ullrich Responsible for WHO in the fight against cancer.

With Dr Ullrich I began to talk about any possible commitments LCI in the fight against cancer, for example, for specific projects in the field of individual nations (eg North Africa, such as Tunisia, Morocco, etc).

PID Dr. Domenico Messina  
Representative LCI to WHO Geneva

## Activities Report September 2014-september 2015 UNESCO

1 / Meeting with the Social and Human Sciences Sector in December 2014 (Alexander Schischlik) to introduce Lions Quest: no positive response at this date. This topic does not seem interested the sector because "there is a lot of existing actions on the subject at UNESCO! »

2 / Relationship Education Sector

During the meeting of 10/23/2014 with the department manager on illiteracy, Subbarao Ilapavuluri, it was decided to choose 2 or 3 countries, as a test, to work together on illiteracy (RAP for LCI and Community Learning Centers for Unesco).

I ask again the 28/11/2014, 17/01/2015 (the 26/01, comes a Unesco funding request, to which I respond by asking the forecast expenditure). Ask again for the two points above the 18/2/2015, 8/03, and to date no response from the education sector on the choice of countries and requested projected expense!

I send other mails in July and September 2015, without answer.

3 / Meeting of the NGO Liaison Committee on 02.13.2015, to inform NGO objectives and the action plan for 2015 and 2016.

We have participated to the group working on the Directives Evaluation. The report is available on request.

PROPOSALS ( for the practical involvement of our clubs and districts with the work of UNESCO)

1 / Continue work on illiteracy by encouraging all clubs in the world to send brief reports on their work, so that the LCI make a synthesis to create a true partnership with the UNESCO Education sector.

2 / Ask the LCI motivate 2 or 3 countries to work with the National Commission for UNESCO of their country, on common issues

Daniel Gontier

Representative of the LCI to UNESCO

## **REPORT 2014-2015 REPRESENTATION AT F.A.O.**

Even in this year the frequency of opportunities to meet with officials of FAO was very limited despite the intense activity of the AD HOC GROUP to which I belong, together with representatives of 25 associations.

I participated in eight meetings of the Group mainly dedicated to the preparation of initiatives to be implemented under the World Exposition EXPO 2015 MILAN dedicated to the problems of hunger and world nutrition.

I attended the meeting of the Committee for Food Security - CFS Committee on World Food Security - held 13 to 17 October 2014 when the course of which I was able to follow the evolution of FAO programs that still remain strongly tied to the policies of the countries where there are the greatest difficulties or even food emergencies.

Few concrete resources are addressed especially to professional or union non-governmental organizations with particular attention to small or independent farmers and fishermen. Many statements on the need to give the right value and consequent assistance to women who, in many poor countries, have on their shoulders the cultivation of land, of which they cannot become owners; it is so difficult to translate into concrete facts such statements that the situation still does not find real improvements. Similarly, the problem of child labor remains unsolved for lack of structural adequate interventions especially for the lack of schools still attended only in part because families are relying on their children to work in the fields.

On each occasion I reminded and highlighted the action of the Lions Clubs largely involved both in Africa and in the Far East with the construction of wells for water for food and agriculture use, with the support and funding of schools, with health care assistance, very lacking in the farmland areas of many countries.

My year of engagement ended with the extraordinary implementation of the LIONS DAY at EXPO which was attended by the President of our Foundation PIP Barry Palmer who marched with hundreds of Lions with the yellow jacket throughout the exhibition area. An outstanding event of active and collective presence that has set the tone of the fundamental importance of our We Serve.

The event ended with a convention in the Conference Hall of the Exhibition during which I held the report on "The Role of Lions Clubs International at FAO" I am attaching an abstract together with the program of the event. Finally, along with the other associations in the group of INGOs AHG it was sent to the Director General, recently re-elected for the second term, José Graziano da Silva to compliment and at the same time confirm the commitment to work together for the realization of the goals of FAO

PID Massimo Fabio  
Representative to FAO

### **THE ROLE OF LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL BY F.A.O**

Lions Clubs International status within F.A.O. is of LIAISON as for every non professional International service organization.

In this capacity, the relationship with the structure of FAO are limited to participation in the events that are produced annually in the plenary.

Recently the conditions for the relationship with the NGOs have changed as a result of radical reforms that FAO has implemented with particular force with the establishment of new and current Director General José Graziano da Silva, Brazil.

Particularly important meetings of the Committee for Food Security to which I have always participated actively and in some case with interventions on the problems of young people and their em-

ployability in agriculture, on the situation of ownership of agricultural land in relation to those states where it is inhibited to women to enter the property, on the enhancement of women's work and children who are at the center of the crops in many areas of the planet.

In collaboration with twenty-five other International Associations, that have been representing for more than twenty years a permanent link through the Ad Hoc Group which meets monthly, we try to develop common communication strategies and support to the FAO programs.

The interventions of the Lions Clubs especially in Africa are reflected in the construction of wells. Along with initiatives of education and dissemination of crops techniques starting from the traditional ones to craft until the use of machines and equipment.

The spread of solar ovens to avoid trees demolition, the distribution of solar lamps to enable a better life for isolated farmers and finally the distribution of plastic bottles to make the water drinkable: these forms of support to people who are living from farming fields represent concretely the commitment of Lions Clubs.

Ultimately the relationship with F.A.O. fully reveals itself with the commitments transcribed in the Charter of Milan.

PID Massimo Fabio  
Representative to FAO

Milan, June 6th 2015