

RI Representatives to the UN and Other Organizations

Overview

Since its founding, Rotary has worked closely with other organizations, including the United Nations, toward a better and more peaceful world. Rotary currently holds the highest consultative status offered to a nongovernmental organization by the UN's Economic and Social Council, which oversees many specialized UN agencies. Rotary maintains its relationship with a number of UN bodies, programs, and commissions, as well as key non-governmental organizations (NGOs), through its representatives.

Each year, the RI President appoints a team of Rotary leaders to serve as RI Representatives to the UN and Other Organizations. Serving as Rotary's unofficial "ambassadors," the representatives work toward strengthening Rotary's participation and reputation at the United Nations and in the international community.

Representatives' Goals

- Establish working relationships with contacts at assigned organization and other key groups
- Inform other organizations about Rotary's humanitarian programs and projects
- Gather information about organizations' initiatives relevant to Rotary and share with External Relations as appropriate
- Discuss potential areas of collaboration with Rotary at local, regional, and international levels

Representatives' Specific Objectives

- Meet personally with officers and staff at assigned agency and other relevant organizations
- Seek participation and speaking opportunities, such as a keynote address or plenary speech to highlight model Rotary projects and programs at meetings or conferences of assigned agency.
- Identify and pursue leadership opportunities, such as moderating a panel or facilitating a roundtable discussion, at meetings or conferences of assigned agency.
- Facilitate potential cooperative projects between organizations and Rotary clubs in their area
- Identify programs, projects or activities where Rotary clubs around the world might coordinate their efforts with the agency at local, district, or national levels.
- Distribute Rotary publications to appropriate contacts
- Promote the role and activities of representatives to Rotary audiences (via regional magazines, district web sites, and presentations at district conferences and assemblies, zone institutes, etc.)
- Update other representatives and External Relations of significant meetings, new initiatives, relevant contacts, and other pertinent information related to assigned agency (preferably via Google Group listserve)
- Attend events on behalf of RI President and/or other duties as requested

RI External Relations

In conjunction with the representatives, RI's External Relations staff work to enhance Rotary's role at the United Nations and in the international community. To help support the representatives' in their outreach efforts, External Relations staff aim to:

- Facilitate communication among RI leaders, representatives, staff, and other organizations
- Facilitate RI Representatives' and/or delegates participation in key events
- Promote Rotary's role in the international community and representatives' activities via RI communications (e.g., www.rotary.org, *The Rotarian*, other RI publications)
- Develop and market publications and other resources specifically targeted for the international community (e.g., *Rotary and the International Community* DVD, Rotary and the Millennium Development Goals factsheet, *Navigating the Global Network* e-newsletter)
- Inform representatives of RI and TRF policy changes and relevant Secretariat activities
- Maintain calendar of international events, including representatives' participation in key meetings, for distribution to select RI leaders and staff