

Letter from Thomas A. Wessels, President of Malteser International Americas on Special Consultative Status at United Nations

Your Excellencies, Dear Directors, Dear Staff,

About a year ago, I sent a letter to the U.S. Order of Malta Associations announcing the relocation of Malteser International Americas from Miami to Manhattan to be closer to the United Nations, Catholic entities, key influencers, international humanitarian partners, and other NGOs. The strategic decision was intended to position the Order of Malta's disaster relief organization at the epicenter of the humanitarian world. We had faith that, in doing so, Malteser International Americas would become a more accessible faith-based leader in the international relief and development community.

Today, our faithful prayers were answered! After a lengthy process of detailed submissions, countless interviews, and detailed reviews, we achieved another significant milestone to further our humanitarian work to reach more vulnerable people in their greatest times of need, in the Americas and around the world. I am proud to share with each of you that Malteser International is now an organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 2018 at the United Nations.

The special consultative status with ECOSOC allows Malteser International and its experts to shape conversation around the future of humanitarian relief. It also allows the Council or one of its bodies to seek expert information or advice from us due to our 60 years of competence providing aid to the poor, sick, and suffering.

With more frequent disasters, ever-increasing humanitarian crises, and a greater number of people in dire need of humanitarian relief, having ECOSOC status positions us as a key humanitarian actor and at the forefront of global humanitarian relief.

This special status did not happen overnight and I would like to give a special thanks to Ravi Tripptrap, his staff, and the entire Malteser International team for their accomplishment. The very special ECOSOC status helps us to uphold the Order's 900 year commitment to help the suffering, as it is through Malteser International -the humanitarian arm of the Order of Malta- which allows us to address a core spiritual mission of the Order: serving those in need, especially the poor and sick.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to reach out. Please feel free to share this significant news with your membership and your networks.

God bless and thank you for your continued support,
Tom