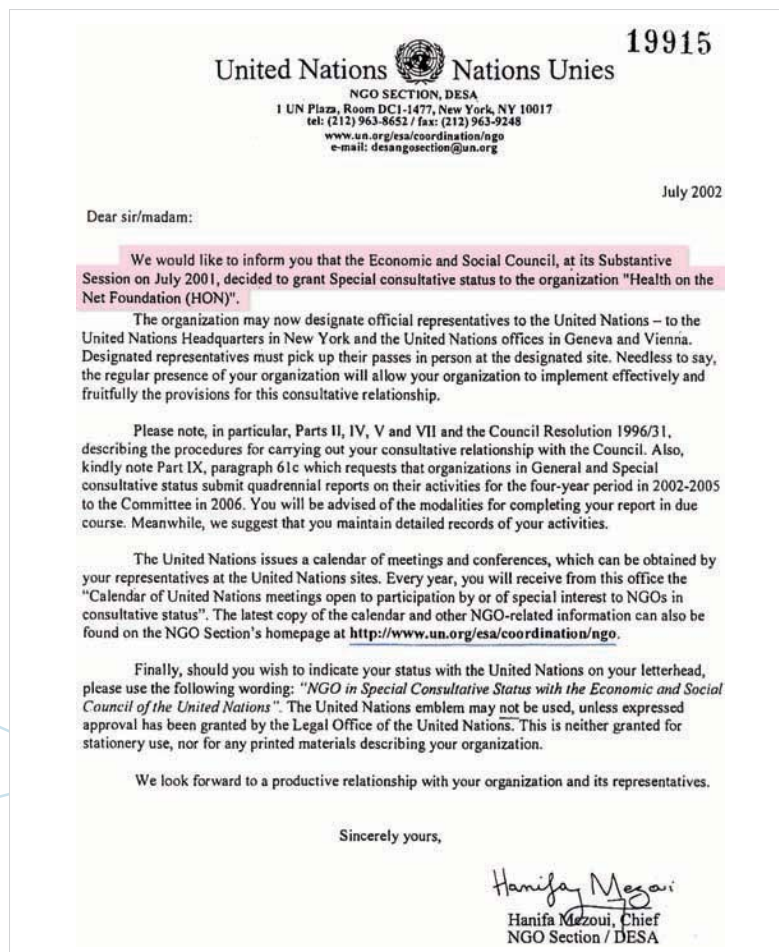


## NGO status for HON

Health On the Net was granted NGO status on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2002 by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

*Health on the Net Executive Director Celia Boyer announced that HON has been granted consultative status to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC). The new NGO status will facilitate HON participation with the World Health Organization and other UN bodies, and reinforce its consultative role with government ministries in several countries where HON has contacts.*



HON was established in 1995 under the impetus of M. Guy-Olivier Segond, former Geneva State Councillor, and the auspices of the General Direction of the Département de l'Action Sociale et de la Santé, Geneva. The organization was then directed between 1998 and 2001 by the late Professor Jean-Raoul Scherrer.

Pioneering the field of health information ethics, HON was first to introduce a code of conduct for medical and health web sites (HONcode). The HONcode has since been adopted by over 5,700 web sites from 72 countries. HON presents its research at international academic gatherings and collaborates on several European Union projects. Although best known for the HONcode, Health On the Net has also developed online applications for patients and caregivers, including HONselect a user-friendly directory of selected medical resources forming an encyclopaedia of 33,000 medical terms in 7 languages. HONselect offers privileged access to 17 million Medline articles, 52,000 ongoing clinical trials, 3,000 news sources and HON's own databases.