

**D14 UN COMMITTEE**

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Chair 2016-2018

**PARTNERSHIP ZONTA INTERNATIONAL AND  
UNITED NATIONS**

**INTRODUCTION**

The third report takes the opportunity at the occasion of the D14 Conference to inform Club Presidents and all other Zontians on some basics concerning Co-operation of Zonta International and United Nations. Being also member of the ZI UN Committee and thus ZI representative at the UN in Vienna I summarize below the most important facts and information on the relationship – or better partnership – of ZI and UN. The relevant presentation which many of you know from visits in clubs or participation at Area Meetings and District Conferences, resp. the presentation is filed in English and German on the D14 Website. If you have additional questions – beyond of the ones below – please do not hesitate to ask me: [hbdevin@t-online.de](mailto:hbdevin@t-online.de). For easier and selective reading the information is presented in “Q&A” format.

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### **1. Why is the Co-operation with the UN so important for Zonta International?**

Charter of Human Rights 1948 says in Article 1 ...

*All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.*

... and in Article 2

*Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.*

The goals of the UN are peace, diplomacy, solution of social problems like poverty, hunger, illiteracy, eradication of diseases, implementation and support of human rights.

The two articles of the Human Rights Charta reflect the ZI Vision:

*ZI envisions a world in which women's rights are recognized as human rights and every woman is able to achieve her full potential. In such a world, women have access to all resources and are represented in decision making positions on an equal basis with men....*

### **2. What makes ZI predestined as supporter and advocate of women at the UN?**

In then light of the Human Rights Charta - what is more obvious than close co-operation with the UN! ZI is an important international NGO with knowledge and expertise concerning women's status - accumulated over almost 100 years since its foundation.

Zontians are women who by professional career, position in society and in economy as well by deep conviction are able to look beyond their nose. They know what women moves, what potentials and competences women "conceal". In this respect Zontians are privileged compared to the great majority of women worldwide; therefore Zontians are privileged to speak and act for underprivileged women's concerns and miseries.

### **3. Which role does „Consultative Status“ play? What does it mean?**

Co-operation with the UN requires accreditation by ECOSOC – the UN body achieving the examination of application. NGOs which aim at close and specific co-operation with the UN need to apply for consultative status.

The consultative status enables NGOs, i.e. ZI to prepare written statements, to raise the voice during relevant conferences and to disseminate statements or relevant documents to stakeholders and likeminded NGOs. In addition, the general consultative status renders ZI eligible as member of specific NGO-UN committees. Since the attribution of consultative status in 1969 ZI holds various such positions.

#### 4. Which benefits does ZI gain by cooperation with UN?

On the one hand, ZI brings in concern and competence regarding women's needs and perspectives. On the other hand, ZI profits from the image of the worldwide organisation UN, represented by State Members from nearly all countries (193) of the globe.

Since 1948 partnership with UN (i.e. UN Women and UN Trust Fund, UNFPA, UNICEF) generated a high grade of mutual esteem, acknowledgement and efficiency. UN reportedly admit that the particular expertise and input of international NGOs turned out to be vital in order to conceptualize and anchor the Human Rights in the UN Charta.

#### 5. In which way does the cooperation between ZI and UN function?

Basically the co-operation and partnership realizes in two ways:

- **Financial support of projects of UN Women, UN Trust Fund, UNICEF and/or UNFPA;** ZI is one of the few international at UN/ECOSOC accredited NGOs which actually part-finances UN-projects apart from consultation! Since over 10 years ZI supports our service projects exclusively in co-operation with UN agencies.
- **ADVOCACY support** of women's status worldwide - i.g. Membership in Commission of Status of women committees **CSW**, contribution to **SDG** → Goal 5 „Gender Equality and empowerment of women and girls“ and its targets. Any activity with UN and their bodies, resp. on behalf of women's status represents Advocacy „pure“.

The project related cooperation of Zonta International with UN is based on concrete projects – the ZI Service Projects. The continuation of the cooperation from one Biennium to the following always requires discussion between the new ZI Board and the relevant UN committee. The general consultative status that ZI is attributed from the UN/ECOSOC does not mean automatically ZI's financial support of UN projects!

#### 6. How can ZI in reality contribute to women related subjects with the adequate UN agencies?

The UN have four main locations where different topics are dealt with:

- **New York:** headquarter of UN, Trafficking, Human Rights, SDG, Migration, Commission of the Status of Women CSW, Economic and Social Commission ECOSOC, General Assembly, UN Women, Population Fund UNFPA, UNICEF – among others
- **Vienna:** UN Office on Drug and Crime (Trafficking) UNODC; Human Rights; Aging, UN Industrial Development Organisation UNIDO (Sustainable Development);
- **Geneva** Human Rights, Council and Status of Women (CSW), Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against women CEDAW, ECOSOC, International Labor Organisation ILO
- **Paris:** UN Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation UNESCO, Organisation for Economic Corporation and Development OECD

In each city four or five Zontians are appointed representatives of ZI at the UN. Whenever they want to get in the buildings the Zontians need a special – if not permanent – admission registration. With the pass the Zontians are able to participate UN conferences, UN agency meetings. They are also allowed to organize parallel events with presentations and panel discussions.

## 7. What kind of task is achieved by ZI UN Representatives in Vienna?

As member of the ZI UN Committee and of the Vienna Team a short description of what we do at UN Vienna:

- Participation in conferences, discussions, workshops at
  - Convention against Transnational Organized Crime UNCTOC
  - Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice CCPCJ,
  - Convention on Transnational Crime CTOC,
  - Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe OSCE
- Organisation of „Side Events“ to relevant meetings of
  - UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (trafficking, migration, labor exploitation) UNCTOC
  - Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice CCPCJ
- Such meetings (also side events) organized / participated together with like minded
- NGOs, e.g. Soroptimist International
- Drafts for common statements (with like minded NGOs or Civil Societies)
- Meetings with experts (e.g. NGOs, civil societies, state ambassadors)
- Communication with UN personal, Representatives of Member States

The UN Aging Committee and the UN Family Committee are also located in Vienna. ZI Vienna team participates in relevant meetings and discussions.

## 8. Which are the topics that ZI contributes to in UN agencies/ conferences?

During the last Biennia ZI formulated and presented “Position Papers” to the following subjects – often in collaboration with like minded NGOs that are accredited at UN/ECOSOC and attributed with a consultative status:

- Trafficking
- Migration
- Prostitution
- Older women – draft version
- Women in Prison – draft version

Furthermore, during the last four years, ZI UN Team Vienna organised numerous Side Events. Topics were “Istanbul Convention – violence against women”, “The Many Aspects of Trafficking”. Some side events were organized together with Soroptimist International.

## 9. In what way is the topic “No violence against women” treated at the UN and in the EU?

There are two important Conventions that deal with prevention and combat of violence against women

- Palermo Convention and the protocols thereto – adopted 2000
- Istanbul Convention – adopted 2014.

While the Palermo Convention focused in particular on Transnational Organized Crime, Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children, the Istanbul Convention focused on violence against women including domestic violence – an aspect that had not been looked at ten year before when the UN adopted the Palermo Convention. The Istanbul

Convention was initiated by the Council of Europe (CoE) and is based on the understanding that violence against women is a form of gender-based violence that is committed against women because they are women. It is the obligation of the state to fully address it in all its forms and to take measures to prevent violence against women, protect its victims and prosecute the perpetrators.

Both conventions complement each other and can be signed by each state; in particular the Istanbul Convention is open to be signed by any non-European country!

Apart from the inclusion of domestic violence, an aspect that had not been considered by the Palermo Convention, the Istanbul convention is unique in another aspect: GREVIO was founded at the time of adoption, an independent expert body responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention - the Istanbul Convention. GREVIO monitors the effectiveness of the Council of Europe Convention. It draws up and publishes reports evaluating legislative and other measures taken by the Parties.

### **10. What is the procedure to achieve the SDG, in particular Goal 5 Gender Equality? How does the monitoring function?**

As far as the monitoring of the Sustainable Development – until 2030 – is concerned, here follows an excerpt of the latest SDG reporting (<http://sdg.iisd.org/news/un-secretary-general-issues-second-sdg-progress-report/>):

In June 2017, the UN Secretary-General has issued the 2017 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) progress report, providing an overview of global progress towards the 17 SDGs on the basis of the latest available data related to the global SDG indicator framework. The report notes that tracking progress on the SDGs requires an unprecedented amount of data and statistics at all levels.

*The report, titled ‘Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals’ was mandated by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which requests the UN Secretary-General in cooperation with the UN system to prepare an annual progress report to inform follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda at the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.*

*The SDG indicator framework upon which the report is based was developed by the UN Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs). In March 2017, the 48th session of the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) agreed on the framework, and the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) adopted it on 7 June 2017. The report is based on a selection of the global indicators for which data were available as of April 2017. For most indicators, the report notes, values represent global, regional and subregional aggregates calculated from data from national statistical systems, compiled by international agencies.*

.....

*On SDG 5 (gender equality), the report states that gender inequality persists worldwide, and achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will require legal frameworks to counter “deeply rooted gender-based discrimination.” It notes that female genital mutilation (FGM) has declined by 30% over the last three decades, while the average amount of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work is more than threefold higher for women than men.*

ZI advocacy competence can contribute to improve Gender Equality! Zonta Clubs should check their current projects, in which way the project goals meet the SDG 5, or implement new projects that meet this goal! At this point all clubs are called upon to check whether their club projects consider or focus resp. on achieving SDG Goal 5! **See attachment – Report Form and D14 Summary (page 7-9)**



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# The Zonta World and the Sustainable Development Goals

## SDG 5 Report Form

The following information is being requested to assist us in reporting Zonta’s contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs. Reporting on Goal 5, for example, will occur in July 2017.

Please complete this information and send it to your UN District Chairman as soon as possible.

We realize some projects are new and some have been ongoing for some time, but please do let us know what you have been involved with.

**Club/District reporting:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Project:**

\_\_\_\_\_

### Relating to: (please check as applicable)

- 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against women and girls everywhere
- 5.2 End all forms of violence against women - public and private - including trafficking and other types of sexual exploitation
- 5.3 Eliminate harmful practices, such as FGM, fistula, child early and forced marriage
- 5.4 Recognize and value unpaid, domestic work; domestic sharing of responsibility; decent work; WEPs and equal pay
- 5.5 Full and effective leadership in all areas of decision-making
- 5.6 Ensure access to sexual and reproductive health and rights
- 5.a Equal rights to economic resources: land, property, inheritance, financial and natural resources
- 5.b Enhance use of ICT and technology to empower women
- 5.c Adopt enforceable laws to promote gender equality and empowerment of women
- Women’s rights/human rights/CEDAW/Beijing +20
- Education
- Other Agenda 2030-SDG
- Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Name**

**Your email address**

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**Short description of the project:**

## SDG Goal 5 – Reporting District 14

Name of Club	SDG 5 / targets	Project Name	Project description
ZC Alzenau	Education	Scholarship of Germany (Deutschland-stipendium)	The ‘Scholarship of Germany’ is given to students who not only achieve excellent grades in College but are also engaged in social work and/or projects. One half of the scholarship is provided by the German Government / University while our club will take care of the second half. This year it will be the first time we support a young lady with this scholarship. In this connection we also hope to draw her interest in ZONTA.
ZC Brixen Bressanone	5.2 End all forms of violence against women	(1) ZONTA SAYS NO	Running campaign worldwide!
	Education	(2) Support for a girl in an local school for participating at an educational journey	Support of a girl to participate at an educational journey to improve the language
	Education	(3) Gender Responsive Schools in Vietnam	Zonta International Service Project
ZC Burgenland	5.2	High level panel, focusing on violence against women	Organization every year a high level panel, focusing on violence against women; focus 2017: on exploitation and trafficking in context of sexual exploitation and organ removal.
ZC Feldbach	5.2 Violence	Support of victims of domestic violence	Financing a flat for women, who experienced domestic violence. Support covers all levels: health, economic situation, legal advice.
ZC Fünf Seen Land	Women’s Rights	(1) Help for Life (Lebenshilfe)	With the aid of our regular financial support single mothers of kids with multiple disabilities can take a short break. This helps them to relax and to take time off from their stressful everyday which in turn improves their quality of life
	5.2 Violence	(2) Women help Women – Emergency telephone	This charity supports women that have become the victim of violence as well as domestic violence and abuse. With our financial aid the charity can guarantee that their emergency helpline is manned 24/7.



<b>ZCs in Hungary</b>		Support of Roma community by educational training and legal support.	Hungarian clubs support Roma people by educational training and legal support, thus alleviating their social discrimination
<b>ZC Ingolstadt</b>	Education	German Lessons for female migrants – (Mama Spricht Deutsch)	We sponsored German lessons for female migrants with kids by offering the lessons for the mothers while their kids have been supervised.
<b>ZC München II</b>	5.2 Violence 5.6 Health Women's Rights; Education	MIREMBE	Housing project for female refugees with traumatizing history to support them to overcome the traumata and to find their own resources and to live an independent life
<b>Nürnberg AREA</b>		ZONTA SAYS NO	together with other Zonta Clubs in the neighborhood we printed various information material (flyers, posters, cards etc. ) and distributed the material in public institutions , universities, cinemas , schools etc.
<b>Vienna I</b>	5.2 Violence; Women's Rights; Education	(1) Financial support of local NGO projects, working on combating violence against women and children	Grow together, HIPPY and MÖWE are well known local NGOs, supporting children and women, to improve their legal, social, economical and health status by different approaches.
	Women's Rights Education	(2) Fellowships and doc/postdoc awards	Zonta Club Vienna yearly supports outstanding young graduated researchers, to continue their special research projects respectively to be able to participate in conferences and trainings. The activities allow personal contacts to high level researchers and open the young scientists new possibilities in their fields of research.

Summary and additions by:

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Inge Geyer, ZC Vienna I, Member of ZI UN Committee 2016-2018, [ingeb.geyer@gmail.com](mailto:ingeb.geyer@gmail.com), Vienna, April 30, 2017

# GETTING TO GENDER EQUALITY: THE UN TAKES AIM

Presentation Leslie Wright ZI UN Committee Chair 2014-2018

*Excerpt*

## Facts

- No country in the world has achieved gender equality.
- In the US, women still only earn on average 78 cents on the dollar of what their male counterparts earn, and it is worse for women of color.
- One in three women will suffer physical abuse in her lifetime.
- Out of 13,000 unaccompanied minors who arrived as refugees in Italy, 4,000 went missing - most were women and girls

## End discrimination

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

- End violence against women: public/ private, trafficking, sexual
- End harmful practices: child, early and forced marriage; FGM
- Value unpaid work; share household responsibility
- Leadership and decision making
- Access to reproductive health care
- Reform: equal rights to economic resources, i.e. land, property, financial services, inheritance, natural resources
- Enhance: use of enabling technologies - ICT, Education (also 4.7), opportunities
- Adopt and strengthen enforceable legislation

## A Transformative Agenda

- No one left behind
- Integrated and indivisible
- Sustainable
- Based on the 3 dimensions of sustainable development: • Economic • Environmental • Social



## Partnerships are the keys

- Women and men
- Youth
- Governments
- UN agencies
- NGO partners
- Businesses, professionals
- Environmentalists
- Financial institutions
- Judicial systems
- In other words - EVERYONE!

## A Challenge for us all

- People's agenda
- Everyone must do their part
- Involvement at the local level is key
- Sustainable production and consumption
- Share the wealth
- Work for peace, tolerance and mutual understanding

**It will never happen without women!**