

Zonta and the UN

September 2019



Mission Statement

Zonta International is
a leading global organization
of professionals empowering women
through service and advocacy.



Zonta's Vision

Zonta International 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.

In such a world, no woman lives in fear of violence.



Zonta and the United Nations (UN)

Zonta International Bylaws - Article II – Objects

The Objects of Zonta International shall be:

- a) To improve the legal, political, economic, educational, health, and professional status of women at the global and local level through service and advocacy.*
- b) To work for the advancement of understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of executives in business and the professions.
- c) To promote justice and universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.*
- d) To be united internationally to foster high ethical standards, to implement service programs, and to provide mutual support and fellowship for members who serve their communities, their nations, and the world.



The Charter of the UN

Article 1 - The Purposes of the United Nations are:

1. To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace;
2. To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace;
3. To achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion; and;
4. To be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends.



Why should Zontians care about the UN?

- Our incorporation and bylaws
- UN Charter and Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Helvi Sipilä, ZI President, 1968-70
- World Conferences on Women: Unifem/UN Women
- SDGs and the sustainable development agenda
- Research on women - Instraw, UN Women, WEPs, UNDP



Key Facts about the UN

- Established in 1945
- Originally 51 Member States; now 193
- Stands for peace, diplomacy, resolution of social issues such as poverty, hunger, illiteracy, elimination of disease, human rights, protection
- While other organs of the United Nations make recommendations to member states, only the Security Council has the power to make decisions that member states are then obligated to implement under the Charter.



Remember the Number 6

- 6 official languages
- 6 main organs of the UN
- 6 Committees of the General Assembly
- Emergency phone # in New York Headquarters is +1(212)963-6666



What are the 6 official languages?

- English
- French
- Spanish
- Russian
- Chinese
- Arabic



6 Main Organs of the UN (1945, UN Charter)

- General Assembly
- Security Council
- Secretariat
- Trusteeship Council
- International Court of Justice
- Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)



Key Facts about the General Assembly

- One country = one vote
- President is elected annually
- In June 2019, the General Assembly elected Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande of Nigeria as President of the 74th session.



General Assembly

- 6 Main Committees are numbered 1-6.
 - [First Committee](#) (Disarmament and International Security Committee)
 - [Second Committee](#) (Economic and Financial Committee)
 - [Third Committee](#) (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee)
 - [Fourth Committee](#) (Special Political and Decolonization Committee)
 - [Fifth Committee](#) (Administrative and Budgetary Committee)
 - [Sixth Committee](#) (Legal Committee)
- Third committee is of interest to most NGOs. The Second also affects our work, BUT our status is not with this body of the UN



The Security Council

- Presidency rotates monthly
- 15 members: P5 (US, Russia, France, UK, China) with veto power; 10 elected by the GA to serve for 2-year terms
 1. Belgium (2020)
 2. Cote d'Ivoire (2019)
 3. Dominica Republic (2020)
 4. Equatorial Guinea (2019)
 5. Germany (2020)
 6. Indonesia (2020)
 7. Kuwait (2019)
 8. Peru (2019)
 9. Poland (2019)
 10. South Africa (2020)

The presidency of the Council is held by each of the members in turn for one month, following the English alphabetical order of the Member States names. In September 2019, the Russian Federation holds the Presidency.



What does the Security Council do?

- Designed to preserve peace; addresses peacekeeping, terrorism, protection
- Member states must adhere to SC resolutions
- For example, SCR 1325 - October 31, 2000 was a landmark; there have been subsequent resolutions on women, peace and security that have dealt with various issues, including women at the peace table
- Nominates the Secretary General



UN Secretariat

- António Guterres, Secretary-General
- Elected by the GA every 4 years; nominated by the Security Council. Secretary-General Guterres has served since 2017.
- International civil service supports work of all UN organs



Major Areas of the Secretariat

- Headquarters in NY
- Offices in Geneva, Nairobi and Vienna
- Support work in Regional offices in Bangkok, Addis Ababa, Santiago, Beirut as well -- many country offices
- UN Delivering as One



Secretariat...

- Executive Office of the [Secretary-General](#)
- [United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services](#) (OIOS)
- [United Nations Office of Legal Affairs](#) (OLA)
- [United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs](#) (ODA)
- [United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs](#) (OCHA)
- [United Nations Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights](#) (OHCHR)- Geneva
- [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees](#) (UNHCR) – Geneva
- [United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime](#) (ODC)-Vienna
- [United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States](#) (OHRLLS)



Secretariat...

- NGO Accreditation: Department of Public Information (DPI accreditation); Department of Social and Economic Affairs (DESA) (ECOSOC accreditation)
- DESA supports the work of NGOs with Commissions of ECOSOC



International Court of Justice

- Located in the Hague, Netherlands
- Only body of the UN outside New York
- Not to be confused with the International Criminal Court
- The Court's role is to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by States and to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by authorized United Nations organs and specialized agencies.
- The Court is composed of 15 judges, who are elected for terms of office of nine years by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council. It is assisted by a Registry, its administrative organ. Its official languages are English and French.



Trusteeship Council

- Established to move colonies into nations
- Last action was Palau in 1994
- Suspended operations in 1994



Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

- President is elected annually
- Her Excellency Mona Juul was elected seventy-fifth President of the Economic and Social Council on 25 July 2019. Ambassador Juul is currently the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations in New York.
- 54 Member State representatives elected for overlapping 3-year terms; observers; NGOs



ECOSOC...

Functional Commissions:

- [UN Commission for Social Development](#)
- [UN Commission on Human Rights](#) (UNCHR): Disbanded 2006, replaced by the [United Nations Human Rights Council](#) (UNHRC), a subsidiary organ of the [General Assembly](#).
- [Commission on Narcotic Drugs](#)
- [Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice](#) (CCPCJ)
- [Commission on Science and Technology for Development](#) (CSTD)
- [Commission on Sustainable Development](#) (CSD)
- [UN Commission on the Status of Women](#) (UN CSW)
- [Commission on Population and Development](#)
- [UN Statistical Commission](#)
- [United Nations Forum on Forests](#)



ECOSOC...

- Committee on NGOs
- Regional Commissions
- [United Nations Economic Commission for Europe](#) (ECE) - Geneva
- [United Nations Economic Commission for Africa](#) (ECA) - Addis Ababa
- [United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean](#) (ECLAC) - Santiago
- [United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific](#) (ESCAP) - Bangkok
- [United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia](#) (ESCWA) - Beirut



ECOSOC...

Independent entities working with the UN and coordinated through ECOSOC

- [International Labour Organization](#) (ILO)*
- [Food and Agriculture Organization](#) (FAO)
- [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization](#) (UNESCO)*
- [World Health Organization](#) (WHO)*
- [World Bank Group](#)
- [International Bank for Reconstruction and Development](#) (IBRD)
- [International Development Association](#) (IDA)
- [International Finance Corporation](#) (IFC)
- [Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency](#) (MIGA)
- [International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes](#) (ICSID)
- [International Monetary Fund](#) (IMF)
- [International Civil Aviation Organization](#) (ICAO)
- [International Maritime Organization](#) (IMO)
- [International Telecommunication Union](#) (ITU)
- [Universal Postal Union](#) (UPU)
- [World Meteorological Organization](#) (WMO)
- [World Intellectual Property Organization](#) (WIPO)
- [International Fund for Agricultural Development](#) (IFAD)
- [United Nations Children's Fund](#) (UNICEF)*
- [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees](#) (UNHCR)
- [United Nations Industrial Development Organization](#) (UNIDO)
- [United Nations Development Programme](#) (UNDP)*
- [United Nations Office of Project Services](#) (UNOPS)
- [International Narcotics Control Board](#) (INCB)



ECOSOC...

- Does not fall under the GA, but it does cooperate with it
- Creates resolutions to address global issues/problems, such as climate change, HIV, follow up to the Women's Conferences and other World Conferences and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



Our Focus: Goal No. 5

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



NGO Groupings, New York

- NGO CSW - UN Women and CSW
- NGO Committee on UNICEF - children's issues, following gender
- Working Group on Girls
- NGO Committee on Trafficking
- NGO Committee on Social Development
- NGO Committee on Human Rights
- NGO Committee on Migration
- NGO Committee on Ageing



Other Areas of Interest

- Special trainings and events
- DPI Briefings in NY - Thursday mornings
- Human Rights briefings; Human Rights Council
- ECOSOC - alternate years in NY and Geneva
- Commission on Social Development (Feb)
- Commission on the Status of Women (March)
- UN-Convention on Transnational Organized Crime



2018-2020 UN Committee

Chairman, Ingeborg Geyer

New York

Pamela Morgan

Mary Lou Shippe

Mary Ann Tarantula

Leslie Wright, *Advisor*

Vienna

Ingeborg Geyer

Claudia Exenberger

Gertraud Ribitsch

Barbara Devin, *Advisor*

Paris

Ursula Bouchard

Lydia Chaillou

Elke Farny

Geneva

Annette di Rosa

Els Van Winckel

Bangkok

Moragot Chotikul

Orayaporn Karnchanachari

Chavali Osathanugrah



Zonta International

