



November 2023

newsletter District 14 UN committee

Dear fellow Zontians,

This is the first of a regular newsletter that is intended to reach out to you all twice yearly.

Today I will start with very **brief and basic background information**:

The **UN as international organisation** was founded in 1945 after the Second World War - aiming to maintain international peace and security not only between the 51 founding members but throughout the world. Currently it is made up of 193 member states.

The **main organs of the UN** are the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council ECOSOC, the International Court of Justice, and the UN Secretariat. All were established in 1945 when the UN was founded.

Since 1969 Zonta International is accredited at the UN with a **general consultative ECOSOC status** - being officially accepted and invited to cooperate - this means active work within different UN teams and subsidiary entities. The consultative status defines the character of the work Zonta members are doing within the committees: as experts they are being heard, together with like-minded organisations' members also being part of certain committees they are handing in position papers, defining objectives and crucial points that need to be discussed within the UN bodies - it all leads to proactive discussions of Zonta related issues and active impact on decision taking.

Topics Zonta has intensely worked on UN level and still is are f.e. trafficking in persons, early marriage and other harmful practices, violence against women and girls, awareness raising in crime prevention and access to criminal justice, CEDAW, Human Rights and not least the implementation of SDG #5.



The 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals are aiming to peace and prosperity for everyone in the world by year 2030. Especially SDG #5 - gender equality - reflects Zonta's position. The UN office on drugs and crime in Vienna is safeguarding SDG #16.

The most important UN body for women's rights is the **Commission on the Status of Women CSW** held in New York since 1946 - a yearly meeting focusing solely on women's rights and equal status globally - each year with the adoption of a multi-year program of work.

The **Zonta International UN committee** exists of three core members: international committee chair Pamela Morgan in New York, Ingeborg Geyer in Vienna and Orayaporn Karnchanachari in Bangkok. You find a very informative 30 min presentation on the work of Zonta at the UN under this following path: www.zonta.org → about us → changing the world for women → **ZONTA AT THE UNITED NATIONS**. Try it out and watch the video !

Within the UN committee there are **5 Zonta Teams at UN sites**: New York (UN headquarters, all conferences, CEDAW, SDG forum etc.) - Geneva (Human Rights, ILO, WHO) - Bangkok (ESCAP) - Paris (UNESCO) and **VIENNA (UNODC)** in our district. Also there is a Zonta team Africa in Nairobi aiming for full accreditation.

The teams ensure that Zonta's priorities are presented and that the Zonta voice is clear in mission-related meetings at their respective sites. They meet and work with decision-makers from UN agencies and countries where Zonta has funded projects and/or where Zonta clubs reside. The current priority area of focus is the Sustainable Development Goals, which set the UN agenda through 2030, concentrating on Goal 5 and areas that relate to women's empowerment. The teams also monitor and report on ongoing issues such as human trafficking, women's employment, human rights, the gender pay gap, and much more. Team members work in coalition with other like-minded organisations, especially via NGO committees, on issues of mutual concern, such as early, child and forced marriage - often in monthly day-long meetings.

IN VIENNA (UNODC = UN office on drugs and crime) currently there are four Zonta ladies active: Zonta International UN Representative in Vienna Dr. Ingeborg Geyer, Mag. Sabine Peters, Dr. Gertraud Ribitsch and Mag. Nadja Kvasnicka-Fleischer. Each of them are representing Zonta in an NGO committee focusing on a specific topic at the UN and observing the respective conferences. The two most important commissions are the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND).

Vienna is the UN office on crime and thus it is the custodian of SDG #16 - justice | the rule of law.

Actions are based on a five-year programme, following adoption as declarations by Crime Congresses which include Civil Society and Academia - there it is where the participation leads to substantive input to the outcome documents.

CCPCJ - monitoring the Convention on Transnational Organised Crime, protocols on:

- Trafficking in Persons, Smuggling of Migrants and Firearms

CND - supervising the International Drug Control Conventions, protocols on:

- availability of drugs for medical use, prevention | support | treatment of drug abuse

Who and what



Ingeborg Chair NGO committee on sustainable development Vienna (2022 - 2024), member in NGO alliance to CCPCJ

Nadja NGO committee CSW, NGO committee on sustainable development, support Inge with NGO alliance to CCPCJ





Sabine

Auditor NGO Alliance on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

NGO committee for Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Gertraud

NGO committee on ageing, NGO committee CSW



What is new

- The Kyoto Declaration (Crime Congress in Kyoto 2021) is being implemented at present.
- The monitoring of its implementation now involves Civil Society broadly and interactively by two new formats:
 - annual Thematic Discussions and
 - Constructive Dialogues (best practice and constructive exchange)
- CCPCJ: new Convention on Cybercrime under review

Upcoming UN Meetings Vienna:

Commission on Narcotic Drugs and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Joint Meetings on 7.12.2023, and separate meetings of each commission on 8.12.2023

Commission on Narcotic Drugs 14.-22.3.2024

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice 13.-17.5.2024

Upcoming important international Dates

Nov. 25th – Dec. 10th – 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence (origin of Zonta's Zonta says no to violence-campaign) – Theme for 2023 "UNITE! Invest to prevent violence against women and girls" – Secretary General Guterres [SG's Concept Note](#)

March 8th 2024 – International Women's Day

March 11th – 22nd 2024 – 68th Commission on the Status of Women – New York

- priority theme: Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective
- review theme: Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (agreed conclusions of the 63rd session)

If you would like more information personally or on club level please feel free to contact me:

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