

UN COMMITTEE 2014-2016

NEWSLETTER No. 1 – January 2015

Dear Governor,
dear D14 Board Members
dear Committee Chairs,
dear Presidents,

with this newsletter I present my tasks and objectives. The following functions were appointed to me for the current biennium:

D14 UN Committee Chair Member of Zonta International UN Committee

1. Duties of D14 UN Committee are:

- Preparation of a presentation „Structure and System of the United Nations UN – Importance and relevance of NGOs and cooperation of Zonta International with UN“. The presentation actually on the D14 website will be completely revised by the end of January 2015.
- Presentations in clubs. The insights in the work of the UN and the cooperation with ZI are widespread and exciting! I gladly visit the clubs to share the information! Small condition: early time agreement, reimbursement of travel and accommodation expenses – if necessary.
- Exchange of information among all district UN committee chairs via a separate website within the www.zont.org home page. This website will be implemented shortly.
- Compilation of a glossary concerning NGOs and UN – ongoing process.
- Communication about activities and findings relative to ZI and cooperation with UN – see below “Newsletter”.

2. ZI UN Committee

Basically, this function has directly nothing to do with the above mentioned D14 position. However - the work as D14 UN committee chair for the last 8 years was fascinating and broadening my Zonta relevant knowledge. Therefore I applied for membership in the ZI UN Committee! For the current biennium I am one of the five Zonta International representatives in Vienna. Inge Geyer heads the team.

Objective of the D14 UN Committee

As in previous biennia I want to intensify the knowledge among Zontians concerning the position of ZI as an important NGO for human rights of women and ZI and its mutually estimated relationship with the UN. This is the starting point to increase ZI and its mission in the public, i.e. increase ZI visibility and credibility.

Newsletter

Here I want to report on club visits and presentations, on on-going activities and outcomes of the cooperation between ZI and UN. The newsletter appears according to needs and availability of relevant news. In turn, comments, questions and contributions are welcome – Barbara Devin – hbdevin@t-online.de!

In addition, the newsletter is a platform to provide important and interesting information and links referring to the work in the ZI UN Committee Vienna. Thus D 14 e profits from my “double function” concerning ZI and the UN!

D14 UN Committee - Outlook

Club visits and presentations on ZI and UN are already scheduled in in January 2015 and March 2015. In both cases I deliver the report on the ZI Convention in Orlando 2014 following the given proxies.

ZI UN Committee – Attendance of Conferences in Vienna and Geneva

Early October and early November 2014 I attended the conferences of UNODC (United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime) and Geneva NGO Forum – Beijing+20 – UN ECE Regional Review CSW (Committee on the Status of Women). Following a short review .

VIENNA 6.-10. October 2014

Conference of the Parties to the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime was established to improve the capacity of States Parties to combat transnational organized crime and to promote and [review](#) the implementation of this Convention - „Break the corruption chain“.

Participants of the conference were delegates/representatives of – among others - States parties, NGOs and social societies/organizations.

Transnational organized crimes are

- Forced prostitution
- Forced labor

- Smuggling of migrants, Trafficking in persons
- Organ trafficking
- Drug trafficking
- Cyber trafficking
- Trafficking in fire arms

Zonta International Team Vienna initiated together with Business Professional Women International BPWI and NGO CSW (Committee on the Status of Women) Vienna a side event with the topic „Lessons Learned by Evaluating Human Trafficking Measures“. The large number of participants and the quality of their functions – representatives of UN, important international NGOs and institutions/Organizations reflected the success of the side event: increase of Zonta International visibility! See attachment 1.

GENEVA 3.-5. November 2014

„Geneva NGO Forum Beijing+20 – UN ECE Regional Review“ was hosted under the theme “act – advance – achieve women’s rights“. It is imperative to reclaim the women’s human rights agenda as actions taken to achieve progress need to be reviewed, barriers need to be reviewed and emerging issues need identification. Also this forum focused on concrete measurable progress relative to Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Overall: more commitment and efforts of states and civil societies/NGOs are demanded in order to improve the status of women, to eliminate barriers to achieve women’s human rights! The enormous importance of Zonta International advocacy efforts becomes clear and urgent!

670 participants from 56 countries of the UNECE region gathered in Geneva. Also, 100 Zontians attended the Forum, including ZIP Maria Jose Landeira Oestergaard, President Elect Sonja Hönig Schough, ZI Advocacy Committee Chair Margit Webjörn (PIP), ZI UN Committee Chair Leslie Wright!

In addition to the plenary sessions 14 roundtables/workshops discussed on each of the millennium development goals. ZIP Maria Jose Landeira Oestergaard covered as one of the key speakers the subject „Violence against Women“ - see attachment 2. Again the essential conclusion focused on the demand to eliminate barriers that prevent women to live their human rights and to monitor and document measurements and progress.

Results of the entire conference are summarized in attachments 3 and 4.