THE UN AND ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

Linking global efforts to promote gender

equality and advance the status of women and girls

HISTORY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

* Phrase United Nations coined by Franklin Roosevelt during WW II
* UN Established after WW II
* Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

HOW DOES THE UN WORK?

* General Assembly – 192 members
* Security Council – 5 permanent members, 10 non-permanent members
* Decision-making process
* International treaties, conventions
* Six principle committees – ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council)

Responsible for UN’s work on economic and social matters and the promotion of human rights. Organizes the work of 14 Un specialized agencies, functional commissions, and five regional commissions.

ZONTA AND THE UN/WOMEN AND THE UN

* NGOs – UN charter provides for NGOs to be accredited to participate at meetings and engage with Member States.
* Founding of the CSW – Originally a sub-committee. Currently a separate functional commission of the ECOSOC comprising 45 member states. NGOs up from 12 in 1947 to “thousands.”
* Mandate of CSW (Commission on the Status of Women)
* Annual CSW meetings – 10 days.
* ZI has special consultative status and is accredited to attend and participate at CSW monthly and annual meetings.

UN DECADE FOR WOMEN 1975-1985

* General Assembly (GA) declared 1975 as International Women’s Year
* 1975 – UN 1st International Women’s Conference in Mexico City chaired by Helvi Sipila, Past ZI President and first female Assistanc Secretary General of the UN.
* UNIFEM and INSTRAW (Int. Research & Training Institute for Advanced of Women) came out of Mexico City.
* Copenhagen (1980) and Nairobi (1985) WCWs

CEDAW

Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination

Against Women

* Adopted in 1975 and came into force September 3, 1981
* The single most important international legal instrument for women adopted by the UN
* 186 Member States have signed and ratified
* CEDAW Committee, 23 experts, meets three times a year
* Reporting
* General Recommendations – 26

BEIJING – 1995

FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

BEIJING DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION (BPfA)

* Consolidation of all the organizing and advocacy for women in the past 25 years
* Twelve critical areas of concern were identified as actions for equality, development, and peace.

MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

(MDGs)

* Widely embraced by Member States and the UN as the development agenda for addressing the world’s most pressing problems
* Set to be achieved by 2015
* Each goal has targets and measuring tools
* Women are central to the achievement of all eight MDGs
* Two-thirds of the way through, many countries will miss achieving the goals.

NEW GENDER EQUALITY ARCHITECTURE

(GEAR)

* Ten-year review of Beijing (BPfA) major finding – the gap between global policy development on gender equality and women’s empowerment and implementation on the national level
* General Assembly reform – combining 4 UN agencies (DAW, UNIFEM, OSAGI, and INSTRAW) into UN Women, January 1, 2011
* Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chili, Under Secretary General of UN Women

THE TIE-IN

* Three ZI representatives from New York at the UN
* Represent ZI at CSW monthly meetings as well as annual
* At annual, ZI President will speak and the three representatives will participate in or facilitate workshops over the ten days
* Mandates: attend meetings, participate in task forces, and constantly communicate with ZI President and Board so that decisions can be made as to what platforms or issues ZI will support
* Funding of UNIFEM, UNICEF, UNFPA projects – projects deemed appropriate and necessary to achieving the 8 MDGs