



## Newsletter No 1 on ZONTA and UN 2016-2018

Dear Zonta friends,  
Welcome to a new Zonta year focusing on Zonta and UN! I continue as UN Committee Chair in District 13 and hope to be in close contact with all the clubs.

Among the best memories from the Zonta International Convention in Nice this summer was the opening ceremony. Suddenly I discovered that on each side of the podium, in front of the nations' flags, we had the Zonta flag on the right side, and the UN flag on the left. For me this symbolized how intertwined Zonta and UN are, but of course Zonta's platform is independent (see photo below).

### Latest news

In July 29 Leslie Wright, the leader of Zonta's UN Committee, chaired a web conference for all District UN Committee chairs and others. She reported from the new *High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)*, a restructured commission in UN. They will meet every year in July focusing SDG, and Zonta may meet as consultative member on panels, round tables or side events. Zonta have to cooperate with others, especially "NGO Major Group" (Non-Governmental Organisations). In 2017 HLPF "Women and poverty" is the main issue and Zonta is searching members with expert knowledge in economy. Come up with names here!

- HLPF has an App for knowledge base: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>



Opening Ceremony Convention 2016. Photo AG Eikseth

## All efforts for SDG 5: Gender equality and empowering all women and girls

According to Zonta International's mission and vision our efforts at all levels and in all projects should be concerted to reach this goal. International advocacy (lobbying or attitude campaigns) is central for the three committees on UN, Advocacy and Council of Europe, in tight connection to the Service Committee.

This have to be practised also at district, area and club levels, Leslie Wright said on the July 29 Conference. And In December a questionnaire has to be answered. (See also *The Zontian*, issue 4, June 2016).

SDG 5 is a crosscutting goal, it affects education, health, peace, poverty... **Ideas:**

- Cooperation with like minded organisations, partnerships
- Shadow report from civil society on national report to UN's CEDAW (about discrimination against women), i.e. Area 4 in Norway contributed in 2016.
- Training sessions on ICT
- Service projects at local level
- HeForShe campaign (FOKUS in Norway made this in 2015 with ministers, parliamentarian, business men, see [www.fokuskvinner.no/no/Forsiden/HeForShe/](http://www.fokuskvinner.no/no/Forsiden/HeForShe/) (Zonta Norway is a member of FOKUS, the national committee for UN Women)

Repeat the 17 SDG's here: <http://una-gp.org/the-sustainable-development-goals-2015-2030/>

## Annual meeting in CSW in NY, every March



14-24 March 2016 the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) had their annual meeting in New York. Then ministers, non governmental organisations (like Zonta) and others from civil society met and evaluated the progress in the status of women (see my News Letter no. 3, last biennium from 23.02.16). **Ruth Hørgård Fagerhaug**, vice president in Trondheim Zonta Club, participated. "An experience for life", she said. She was impressed by the good standing Zonta International had in UN, to meet clever women leaders in side events, to participate in meetings at Norwegian

Embassy. On the photo we see the incoming president Sonja Hönig Schough, the then president Maria Jose L. Østergaard, and Ruth standing behind (photo: RH Fagerhaug).

**Next meeting, CSW61, will be 13-24 March 2017** (Zontians meet on the 12th). More about this in next Newsletter, but try to plan already now. Only 20 Zontians will be delegates in the meeting, but a lot of interesting side events are open for you. Contact me if interested!

Warm Zonta regards, *Astrid Grude Eikseth*

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