



# Zonta and UN Relations

## The Start, Women Rights, Zonta's Work

Ideas for Zonta Clubs in District 13

By UN and CoE Committee in D-13 June 2019

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Zonta and UN cooperates in two ways

1. Service projects among women and girls: **money and support**



Madagascar



Niger



Liberia

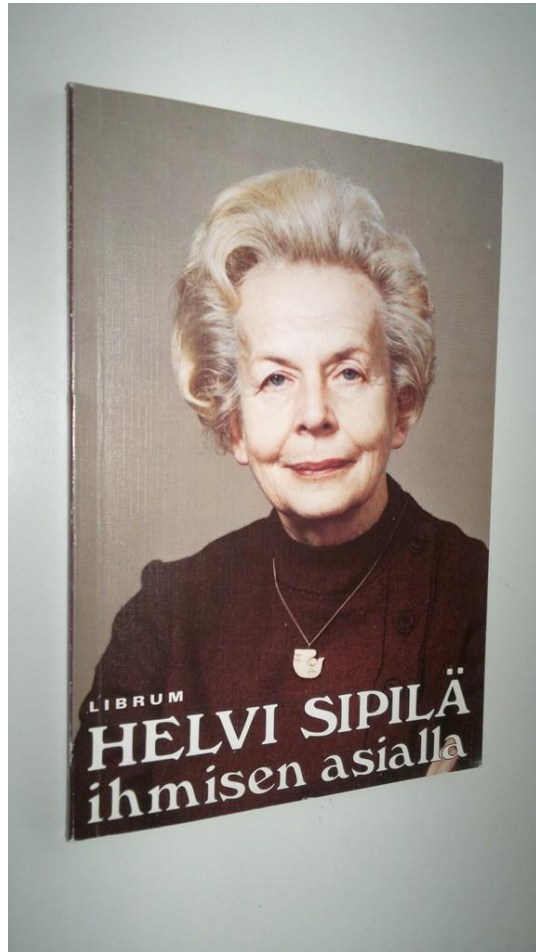


Jordan

2. Advocacy work in UN for advancing the status of women: **influence**



# From the history – a women pioneer



- Helvi Sipilä from Finland was Zonta International President in 1968-70. She became the first female Assistant Secretary General in 1972-80. She made great progress in work for women:
- The first UN Women Conference in Mexico 1975
  - The Women Convention CEDAW in 1979
  - Started UNIFEM help fund for women.



# Why should UN listen to Zonta?



- Zonta is a leading organization of professionals.
- Zonta has general consultative status in ECOSOC.  
(ECOSOC = Economic and Social Council)
- Zonta International has a high standing and cooperates with other NGOs.  
(NGO = Non-Governmental Organizations)



Under-Secretary-General Pfumzille Mlambo Ngzuka  
& Executive Director

# Benefits of Consultative Status

Advocate issues of concern

Provide expertise through written and oral statements

Organize side events on issues

Access to UN – networking w UN staff & member countries

Attend International conferences/events



# ZI UN Committee

**Chairman Ingeborg Geyer**

20 members

**Themes this biennium:**

- ✓ Sustainable Development Goals
- ✓ Ending child marriage
- ✓ Women's employment
- ✓ Gender pay gap
- ✓ Human trafficking
- ✓ Human rights

Actions towards UN bodies, ZI districts > clubs



Ingeborg Geyer

# Zonta UN Committee - sites



UN Main Office New York



Palace of Nations Geneva; also  
ILO

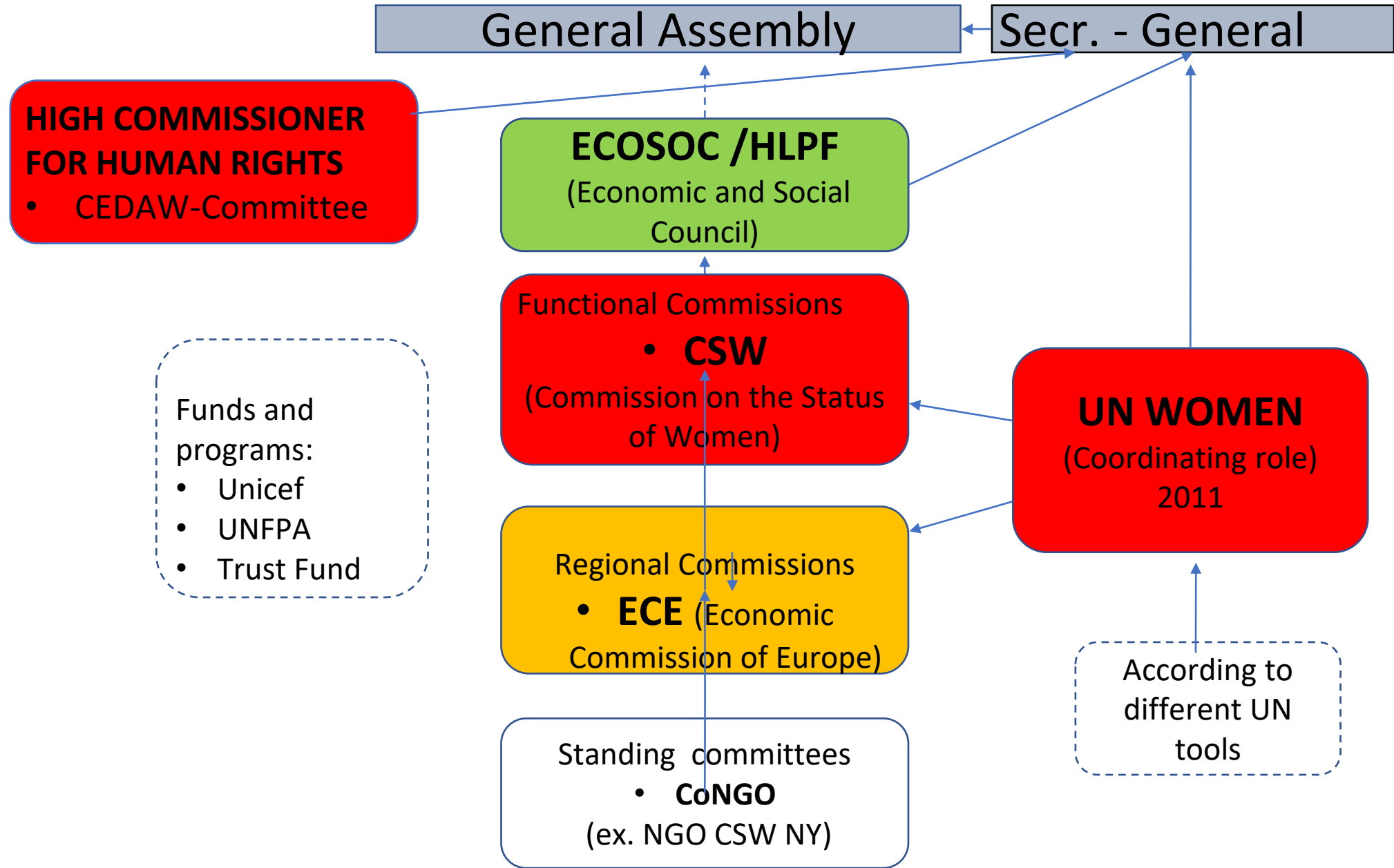


UN Office in Vienna



UNESCO in Paris

# UN bodies for Women issues





# Women Human Rights' Tools



- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 1979 (CEDAW)
- Beijing Platform for Action 1995 (BPfA)
- Sustainable Development Goals 2015 (Agenda 2030)

# CEDAW - «A bill of rights for women»



CEDAW stands for “Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women” from 1979.

- 188 nations have ratified it.
- The nations have to write gender equality into their legislation and delete discriminating decisions. They are obliged to protect women against discrimination, and ensure civil, social, economic, cultural and political rights.
- All governments have to establish institutions to follow up and measure the progress in the antidiscrimination efforts and report to the CEDAW committee every 4<sup>th</sup> year.

# Sustainable Development Goals 2015, Agenda 2030



## Example of Zonta's Advocacy work: «Economic Security, Violence against Women and the Workplace»



**Event in UN:** Agreement on violence against women has consequences for workplaces and women's life. We need guidelines in private sector for safe work places developed through social dialogues, it was said.



# Example of Zonta's Service Project: "Let us Learn Madagascar"



- About 90 percent of Madagascar's population lives on less than US\$2 per day, leaving children particularly vulnerable.
- More than a quarter of Madagascar's children are excluded from formal education, and one out of three girls will become pregnant before the age of 18. Junior secondary school enrollment fees are prohibitively expensive for families, forcing parents to select one child to continue their education, often leaving girls behind.
- Zonta International has committed US\$1,000,000 to [UNICEF USA](#) to create opportunities for vulnerable and excluded girls to realize their rights to an education in a secure and protective environment.



