

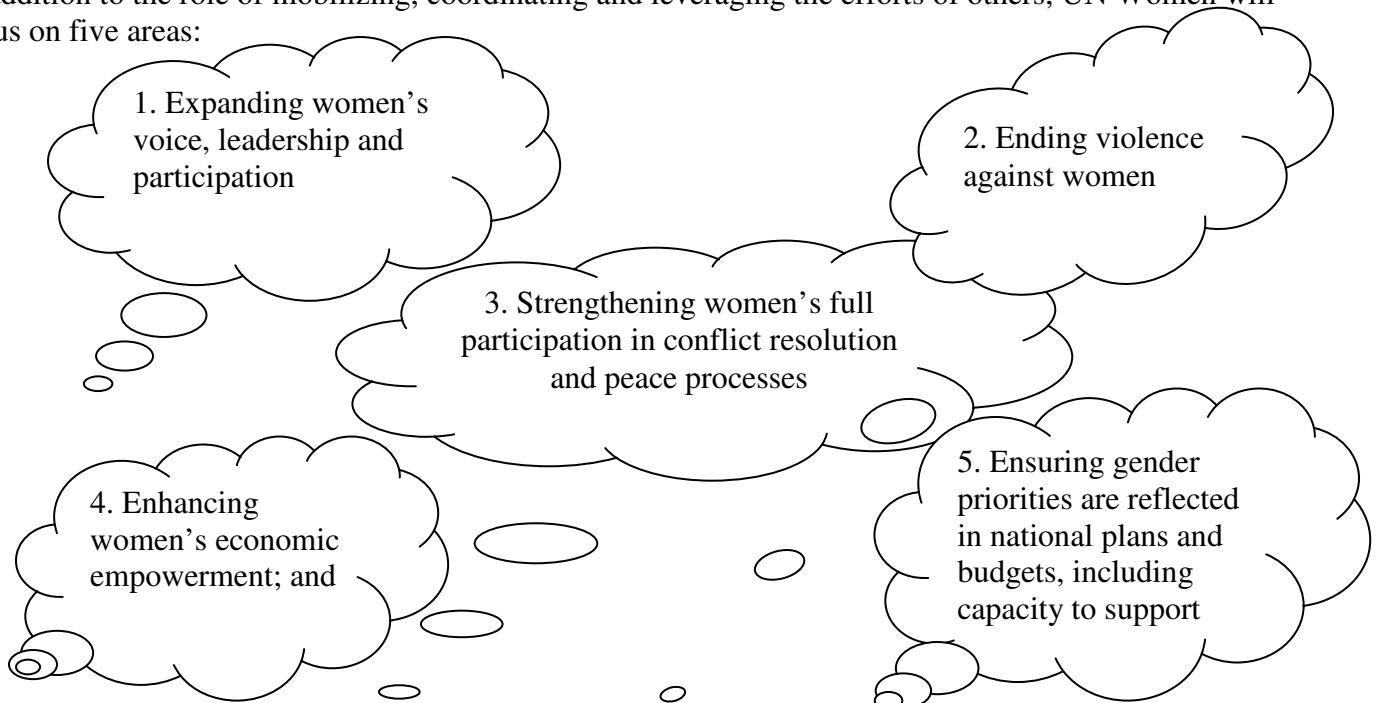
United Nations Update – District 22 - June 2011

Information from ZI UN Chairman

UN Women launched

In July 2010, the United Nations General Assembly created UN Women, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. **The official launch took place on 24th February 2011.** With this UN Member States took an historic step in accelerating the Organization's goals on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

In addition to the role of mobilizing, coordinating and leveraging the efforts of others, UN Women will focus on five areas:



<http://www.unwomen.org/>

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

CSW is the principal global policy-making body dedicated exclusively to gender equality and advancement of women. Every year, representatives of Member States gather at United Nations Headquarters in New York to evaluate progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and women's empowerment worldwide.

The 55th session of the Commission on the Status of Women took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 22 February to 4 March 2011. This was the first session where UN Women served as the Secretariat of the Commission.

This year a fairly large group attended representing ZI, they included: President Dianne Curtis, President Elect Lynn McKenzie, Vice President Maria Jose Landeira Oestergaard, ZI Board Member Jackie Beaudry,

LAA Chair Jean Bryant, New York Committee Members Pat Latona and Sue Westerberg and Vice-Chair in Geneva Simone Ovar were all in attendance for most of the first week.

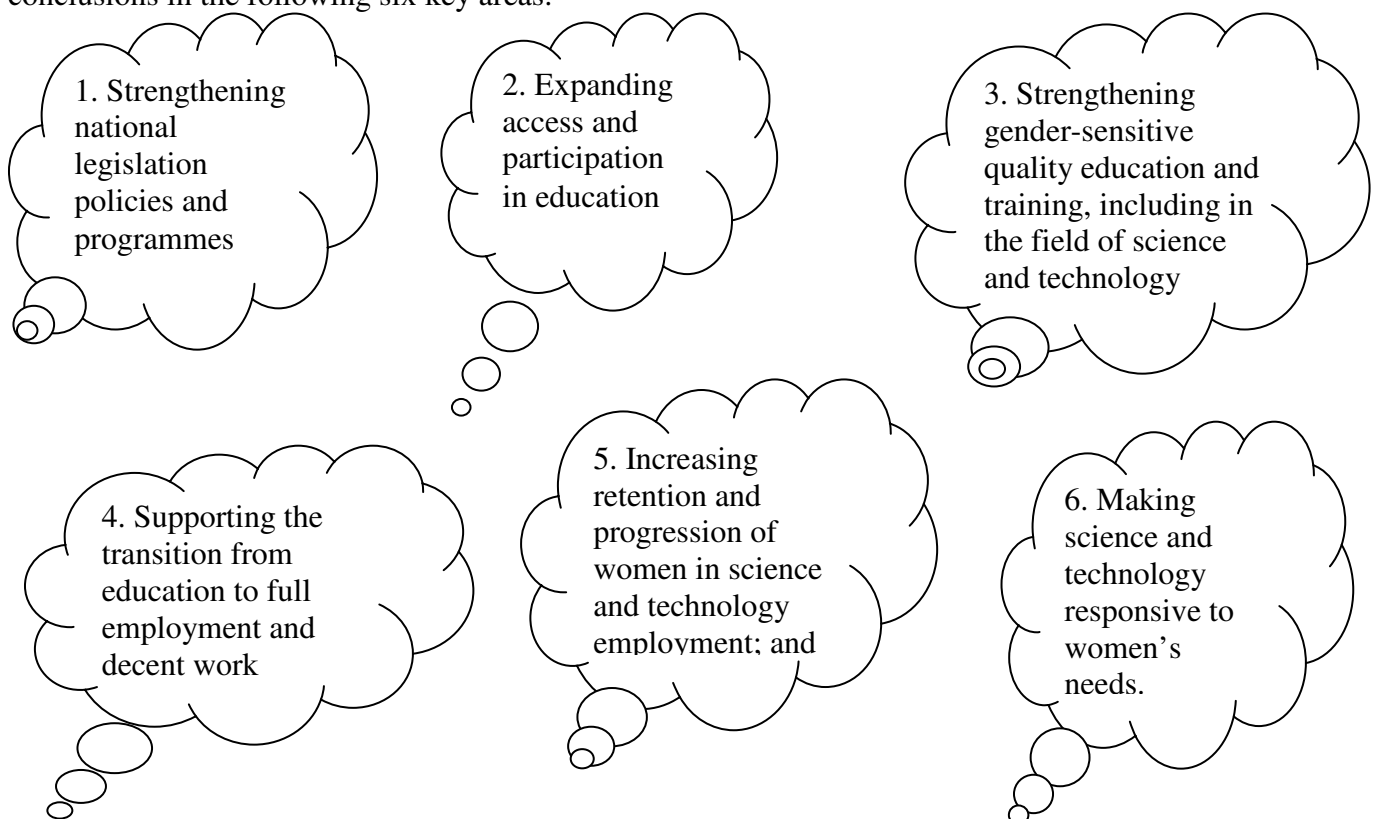
Also in attendance for a few days were Sharon Langenbeck, Chairman of the ZI Amelia Earhart Committee, and Holly Anderson, Vice Chairman. They prepared and presented a "side-event" about our Amelia Earhart Fellowships which was well received and those of us from Zonta who attended learned a great deal as well. We were all lucky enough to be able to attend the official launch for UN Women which was quite emotional.

This session focused on a priority theme that is crucial to women's ability to contribute fully to the development, economic growth and well-being of all societies and nations: access and participation of women and girls in education, training, and science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work.

During the session, there was also evaluation of progress made in ending discrimination and violence against the girl child, where some significant progress was noted, thanks to the committed action of a multitude of stakeholders.

It is clear that the transition from education to the world of work remains fraught with challenges. The continuing weaknesses in the global economic and financial situation exacerbate these challenges, making gender-sensitive and targeted action especially urgent.

With access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work, these are the draft agreed conclusions in the following six key areas.



As noted in the agreed conclusions, quality education and equal access and participation in science and technology for women of all ages are not only imperative for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women – they are also an economic necessity, providing women with the knowledge and understanding necessary for lifelong learning, employment, better physical and mental health, as well as full participation in social, economic and political development.

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/55sess.htm>

CEDAW Update

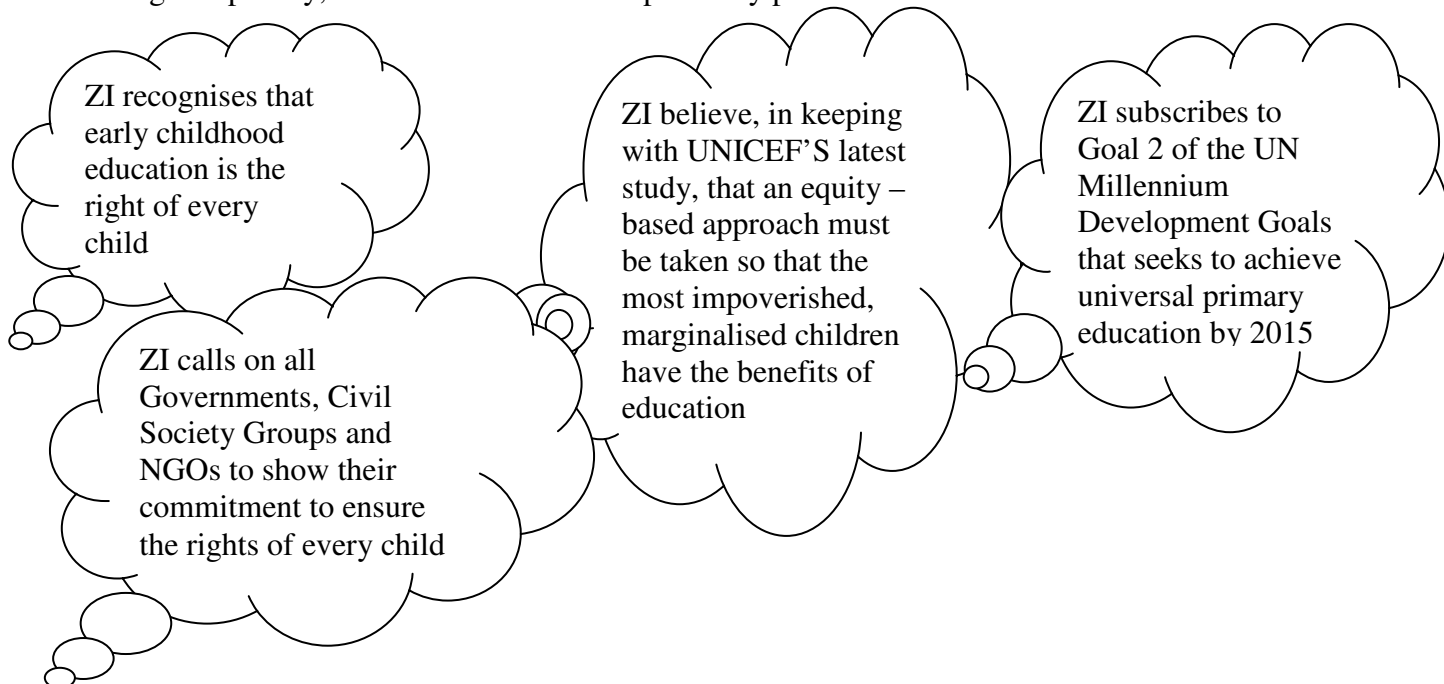
CEDAW, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, is a landmark international agreement that affirms principles of fundamental human rights and equality for women around the world.

The 49th session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women will take place 11-29 July 2011. The countries reporting will be Costa Rica, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Italy, Nepal, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and Zambia.

http://www.peacewomen.org/peacewomen_and_the_un/peacewomen-un-monitoring/committee-on-the-elimination-of-discrimination-against-women

The committee also accepts submissions by NGOs on the implementation of the Convention by the reporting states. ZI is preparing a submission. Observers are allowed at these meetings and those ZI personnel in New York will be observing. Also, the NGO Committee on the Status of Women will be hosting an interactive "luncheon" with the CEDAW experts who review the reports and submissions.

ZI has already submitted a **statement to the 2011 High-Level Segment on the Annual Ministerial Review on the theme "Implementing the Internationally agreed Goals and Commitments in regard to Education"**. We concentrated on MDG 2 which seeks to achieve universal primary education by 2015. The High-Level Segment will take place in mid-June and, once again, your representatives in New York will be attending. Hopefully, we will have much to report. Key points include:



What members in District 22 have reported

From Area 1 & 3 Area Meeting

- provided stickers in public places re CEDAW
- Creating a CEDAW representative
- Recognition DV/CEDAW at Griffith University.

Please send any photos/articles of your UN events or ideas so that we can share with other clubs.

Thanks
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