



## Affiliation with Other Organizations Policy

The Bylaws of Zonta International provide that Zonta International, its districts, and its clubs shall be nonpartisan and nonsectarian and that Zonta International, its districts, and its clubs may express themselves about, and become involved in principles and public issues having a bearing on the Objects of Zonta International, following the policies established by the Zonta International Board of Directors.

- Bylaws of Zonta International, Article III, Section 1 and 2.

### Affiliation

Affiliation with another organization means any kind of association of Zonta International or Zonta International Foundation, its clubs, areas or districts with the other organization, including joining, cooperating or participating in the organization's activities. Conditions for any affiliation with another organization include all of the following:

- a. The affiliation promotes the Objects of Zonta International.
- b. The affiliation will provide at least as much benefit in terms of accomplishing Zonta International's mission, promoting its work or cost saving as Zonta International, its districts/regions, areas or clubs could achieve acting independently.
- c. Zonta International's nonpartisan and nonsectarian character is preserved.
- d. The affiliation will not put at risk Zonta International's status with United Nations agencies or the Council of Europe.
- e. The affiliation will not put at risk the tax status of Zonta International and Zonta International Foundation being tax-exempt in the United States under Section 501(c)(4) and Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code respectively.
- f. The required financial and human resources have been determined and taken into consideration when deciding to affiliate.
- g. Zonta International's and Zonta International Foundation's name and credibility are not likely to be adversely affected.
- h. Whenever any affiliation arrangement has been either made or terminated at the district/region, area, or club level, the governor must notify the Zonta International executive director or her/his designee no later than in the next governor's report.

**Joining** another organization means that Zonta becomes a member of the other organization and is bound by its rules and, unless Zonta dissents, the organization's actions. For example, Zonta International is currently a member of the Conference of NGOs<sup>1</sup>, UNESCO NGO Liaison Committee, UNA-USA Council of Organizations, and the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe.

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<sup>1</sup> NGO = Nongovernmental organization

Zonta International may join another organization, and its districts/regions, areas and clubs may join another organization, provided that:

- conditions under a – g above are fulfilled,
- the organization is independent of partisan or religious authority in its decision-making,
- Zonta may dissent or abstain from decisions with which it disagrees and have that dissent or abstention noted in the other organization's published decisions and/or meeting minutes, and
- Zonta may terminate its membership of the other organization at any time.

**Approval and termination.** Zonta International may join another organization based on the decision by a two-third vote of the Zonta International Board. A decision to terminate the membership shall be by a majority vote of the Zonta International Board.

*District/region.* A district or region may join another organization with the approval of the Zonta International Board, provided that two-third of the clubs in the district/region votes in favor of the arrangement. A decision to terminate the membership shall be by a majority of the clubs in the district/region.

*Area or club.* A Zonta area or club may join another organization only with the prior approval of the district/region board. A club may seek such approval after a two-third vote in the affirmative by club members at a club meeting or by electronic means. An area may seek such approval after a two-third vote in the affirmative by the clubs in the area at an area meeting. A decision to terminate the membership shall be by a majority of the clubs in the area, or by a majority of the club members respectively.

**Cooperating** with another organization means that Zonta and the other organization agree to work together on a specific project or program, normally for a specific period of time, and that Zonta and the other organization each have specific responsibilities. For example, Zonta International cooperated with UN Women on the Say NO – UNiTE Campaign, and many districts and clubs have cooperated on the White Ribbon campaign.

Zonta International, its districts/regions, areas, and clubs may cooperate with other organizations, provided that:

- conditions under a-g above are fulfilled,
- the terms of the cooperation are recorded in writing and signed by authorized representatives of both the other organization and Zonta International, a Zonta district/region, area or club, as appropriate, and
- the agreement has a termination clause.

**Approval and Termination.** Zonta International may enter into a cooperation agreement based on the decision of 2/3 of Zonta International Board. A decision to terminate the cooperation shall be by a majority vote of the international Board.

*District/region.* A Zonta district or region may enter into a cooperation agreement, based on a majority vote of the clubs in the district/region. The agreement must specify the Zonta district or

region. A decision to terminate the cooperation shall be by a majority of the clubs in the district/region.

*Area.* Zonta area may enter into a cooperation arrangement, based on the approval of a majority vote of the clubs in the area and the approval of the area director and the governor/region representative. Each club has one vote unless the district Rules of Procedure specify otherwise. The agreement must specify the district/region and the area. A decision to terminate the cooperation agreement shall be by a majority of the clubs in the area.

*Club.* A Zonta club may enter into a cooperation agreement, based on the decision of a majority vote of the club members. The agreement must specify to the Zonta club. A decision to terminate the cooperation agreement shall be by a majority of the club members.

## **Participation**

Participation in a coordinated group action/movement means that Zonta International or Zonta International members are present to make awareness of Zonta International's position on women without joining or cooperating with the other organizations. Examples are activities with other organizations on International Women's Day 8 March or during the 16 days of Activism or other rallies, marches or campaigns having a bearing on Zonta International's mission.

Zonta International, its districts/regions, areas, and clubs may participate in a coordinated group action/movement along with other organizations, provided that:

- conditions under a-g above are fulfilled
- all awareness material indicates clearly Zonta International as non-partisan and non-sectarian position.

***Approval and Cancellation.*** Zonta International may participate in a coordinated group action/movement based on 2/3 vote of the Zonta International Board. A decision to cancel the participation shall be by a majority vote of the Zonta International Board.

*District/region,* A Zonta district or region may participate in a coordinated group action/movement in the name of the district/region, based on the decision of a majority vote of the clubs in the district/region. A decision to cancel the participation shall be by a majority vote of the clubs in the district/region.

*Area.* A Zonta area may participate in a coordinated group action/movement in the name of the area, based on the approval of a majority vote of the clubs in the area and the approval of the area director and the governor/region representative. A decision to cancel the participation shall be by a majority of the clubs in the area.

*Club.* A Zonta club may participate in a coordinated group action/movement in the name of the club, based on the decision of a majority vote of the club members. A majority to cancel the participation shall be by a majority of the club members.

**Document control:**

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Responsible Committee	International Advocacy Committee
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