

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL POLICY ON “AFFILIATION”¹ WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

*Adopted by the International Board January 2009
(replaces previous policy dated February 2004)*

The Zonta International Bylaws specify that

Zonta International, its districts, and its clubs, shall be nonpartisan and nonsectarian.
(Article III, Section. 1).

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 guidelines established by the Zonta International Board of Directors. (Article III, Section. 2).

The Zonta International Board will determine which organization(s), if any, it will 'join'. Zonta Districts and Areas may NOT join other organizations as they are not legal entities (IBL Article XIII, Sections 1, 2 and 4). Districts and Areas, whose boundaries are 'fluid' (IBL Article XIII, Sections 1, 2 and 4), are administrative units.

In accordance with these principles, the Zonta International Board, at its January 2009 meeting, adopted the following definitions and policies:

1. **CO-OPERATING** with another organization means that Zonta and the other organization agree to work together on a specific project or program, usually for a specific period of time, and that Zonta and the other organization each have specific responsibilities.
2. **Only Zonta International** may join other organizations in order to co-operate on projects or programs that are consistent with Zonta International's objects, provided that:
 - a. Zonta's nonpartisan and nonsectarian character is preserved;
 - b. the organization is not a political party or established or controlled by a political party;
 - c. the organization is not a religious community or established or controlled by a religious community;
 - d. the organization is independent of governmental, partisan, and religious authority in its decision-making;
 - e. 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;
 - f. the "affiliation"¹ will not put at risk Zonta's consultative status with United Nations agencies;
 - g. the "affiliation"¹ will not put at risk Zonta's tax status (e.g., tax-exempt in the United States under Sec. 501(c)(4) of the United States Internal Revenue Code).
3. Zonta International, clubs and districts may co-operate with other organizations in order to advance projects or programs that are consistent with Zonta International's objects, provided that:
 - a. Zonta's nonpartisan and nonsectarian character is preserved;
 - b. the "affiliation"¹ will not put at risk Zonta's consultative status with United Nations agencies;

- c. the “affiliation”¹ will not put at risk Zonta’s tax status (e.g., tax-exempt in the United States under Sec. 501(c)(4) of the United States Internal Revenue Code).
 - d) Zonta’s independence and name are not likely to be adversely affected;
 - e) No other organization can use Zonta’s name, logo or reference to same without the written agreement of the ‘Zonta’ party (i.e. Zonta International, club or district).
4. In determining whether to join another organization, Zonta International must consider:
- a. the purpose of joining— it is generally preferable for Zonta to co-operate with another organization rather than to join it. Zonta International should join other organizations only for actions that will accomplish our mission;
 - b. the organization’s mission, organizational structure, membership, other affiliations, funding, programs, history, and reputation;
 - c. financial costs associated with joining the organization;
 - d. the organization’s status with respect to national or international bodies (e.g., does it have consultative status with United Nations agencies?);
 - e. whether the arrangement would cause dissension among Zonta members;
 - f. how Zonta can disassociate from the other organization (if Zonta International joins another organization, Zonta should be free to terminate its membership in the other organization at any time or with minimal notice).
5. Prior to joining any other organization, Zonta International must:
- a. review the organization’s governing documents (e.g., statute, regulations, constitutions, bylaws);
 - b. decide, after 60 days written notice, by a two-thirds vote of the International board to enter into the arrangement.
 - c) In case of termination of a “joining/co-operation agreement”, a majority vote of the International Board is needed.
6. Prior to entering into any co-operation with another organization, a Zonta club or district must decide to do so by a majority vote (of the club members in the case of a club, and of the district clubs in the case of a district). A decision to “leave” such co-operation will also require a majority vote of the members/clubs. Zonta International may enter into a co-operative arrangement (other than joining), based on the decision of the Zonta International President.
7. Where clubs enter into a co-operative arrangement, reference shall be to the Zonta Club of XX, where districts enter into a co-operative arrangement, reference shall be to Zonta District XX. Clubs and Districts cannot ‘co-operate’ under the banner of Zonta International.

SUMMARY

Sections 2, 4 and 5 above relate to Zonta International (via Zonta International Board) ONLY. Clubs, Areas and Districts may NOT formally JOIN with other organizations (in a legal/financial sense).

Sections 1, 3 and 6 above relate to Clubs, Districts, Areas which may co-operate with other organizations PROVIDING THAT the specifications in sections 3, 6 and 7 are met.

NOTE. 1. “affiliation” includes ‘joining’ (ZI Board only to determine) and ‘co-operating’ (clubs and districts may determine).