












**Intercontinental Think Tank Meeting**  
**Sunday 16 April 2023,**  
**6-7.30 UTC**

**NOTES**

1	<p><i>Welcome to</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International and District Committee Chairs</li> </ul>						
2.	<p><i>Actions from the March meeting</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Website and fact sheet to be published by Zonta International             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Zonta Says NOW is found under 'Our Causes'                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New logos</li> <li>▪ Menu to Zonta Says NOW pages</li> <li>▪ Fact sheet on the resources page</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Start drafting the questionnaire             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Logistics being discussed with Zonta International</li> <li>○ A previous District 23 questionnaire is being used as a starting point</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Continue to gather completed frameworks             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 4 frameworks received so far – send to <a href="mailto:info@zontasaysnow.org.au">info@zontasaysnow.org.au</a></li> <li>○ We will include ideas raised during our Think Tank discussions</li> </ul> </li> </ul>						
3.	<p><i>At the April meeting we focussed on sharing our stories</i>          We heard from three speakers: Anastasia Gbem, Hasna Moudud, and Angela Brockmann. Videos of the meeting and three talks have been uploaded to <a href="https://zontasaysnow.org.au/intercontinental-think-tank/">https://zontasaysnow.org.au/intercontinental-think-tank/</a> and are well worth watching.</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="300 1420 1337 1843"> <tr> <td data-bbox="300 1420 592 1682">  </td> <td data-bbox="627 1420 1007 1682">  </td> <td data-bbox="1086 1420 1337 1682">  </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="344 1682 547 1805"> <p>Nigeria                  Anastasia Gbem                  ZC Lagos I                  District 18</p> </td> <td data-bbox="651 1682 983 1805"> <p>Bangladesh                  Hasna Jasimuddin Moudud                  ZC Dhaka I                  District 25</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1054 1682 1366 1843"> <p>USA Caucus                  Climate Committee Chair,                  Angela Brokmann                  ZC Louisville                  District 5</p> </td> </tr> </table>				<p>Nigeria                  Anastasia Gbem                  ZC Lagos I                  District 18</p>	<p>Bangladesh                  Hasna Jasimuddin Moudud                  ZC Dhaka I                  District 25</p>	<p>USA Caucus                  Climate Committee Chair,                  Angela Brokmann                  ZC Louisville                  District 5</p>
							
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4.	<p>Sadly, there were technical difficulties while we were in our breakout rooms and the whole meeting ended suddenly. Members were asked to forward their discussion points and these observations were received from Hasna Jasimuddin Moudud, Mahfuza Rashid, Bobbee Cardillo and Pia Hultgren.</p>						
	<p><i>Observations from Hasna Jasimuddin Moudud, ZC Dhaka I, Bangladesh</i></p> <p>It was a great pleasure to share my knowledge and experience on Climate Change since 1972 when I was introduced to it at the UN. After my studies in the US, when I was back in Bangladesh the cyclones and frequency of floods captured my attention. Climate Change is no</p>						

longer a localised event or phenomenon. It affects us all to different degrees - perhaps more severely in densely populated Pacific and Asian islands and low lying Coastal areas like Bangladesh. I now realize that it must be stopped or halted with help from all. I wanted to highlight the following points:

*What can be done?*

- Reduce Climate Change.
- Reduce gradually fossil fuel use by 2025.
- Reduce global warming to under 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- Establish a Global Shield Fund for Climate Vulnerable Countries.
- Address loss and damage due to Climate Change.

*Why*

- If the sea level rises (due to global warming ice and glacier melting etc.) up to 10 meters, Biodiversity will be destroyed, but it will not happen quickly. When it does there will be no turning back.
- Ecosystems will be destroyed.
- Fresh water scarcity will be acute.
- Human life, livelihood and the food chain will all be affected.
- Violence will increase.

*What can be done by Zontians?*

- Zontian women should prepare themselves to give leadership roles in the Movement to stop Climate Change.
- Empowered women need to go into politics and UN and global negotiations with proper leadership qualifications.
- Empower women in politics to address the agenda of Climate Change.
- There is no time to waste. Act now.

*Observations from Bobbee Cardillo, ZC Fairfax County, District 3.*

- Water is an urgent area of concern. Ice melting in mountains, and one country building dams on rivers, can impact another country's fresh water supply.
- Flooding is killing off critical mangroves, in Bangladesh and Amazonia.
- We must stop greenhouse gas emissions--wealthy countries need to take responsibility.
- Desalination is an expensive process to add to the water supply. In Saudi Arabia the water gained is used to grow crops in the desert, etc - not a helpful solution.
- We need to push for women leaders to make climate-impact decisions and have more "compassionate women and men leaders".
- Countries need to follow the "recommendations" of the UN and the agreements endorsed at COPs. Basically, rich countries need to cut back their emissions.

*Observations from Mahfuza Rashid, Zonta Club-IV, Dhaka, Bangladesh*

Thank you so much for the April,16 Intercontinental Think Tank meeting. It was an interesting and useful informative meeting, though it was disrupted at the last moment. This meeting covered almost everything; I think. The wonderful three speaker's valuable and insightful presentations on climate change give us knowledge that shows the right path on 'Zonta Says Now'. I wanted to share something in the meeting room which is described below.

- In Bangladesh, recently we are experiencing its hottest day in the last 58 years, with a temperature of 40.5 degrees Celsius. Outside the capital recording 42.2 degrees Celsius, the highest in the season.
- The problem is, human-induced climate change is largely to blame for the heatwave. Only long-term planning and thoughtful policies can rein in extreme weather events. So we should urge our city corporations, local administrations and all development authorities to stop the current trend of mindless urbanization and deforestation which harms the environment as carbon footprints. Water bodies must be protected from encroachers.
- I also share our recent club activity on **Climate Change and basic Plastic literacy Session.**
- Zonta Club-IV, Dhaka, organized plastic pollution and Climate Change awareness program among underprivileged students at Gulshan Ladies Community Club, on March 22, 2023. The session was conducted by a young Climate Activist who motivated all to say No to plastic.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate change, its impact on Bangladesh, and its preventive measures were displayed in a PowerPoint presentation. They talked about how the continued extraction and burning of fossil fuels is exacerbating climate impacts like floods and cyclones in Bangladesh – making them more intense, unpredictable, and destructive.</li> <li>• The presentation showed that Bangladeshi children are at risk from climate change, and plastic pollution. This whole program was very interesting and motivating for the students. The presentation showed how to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.</li> </ul>
	<p><i>Observations from Pia Hultgren, ZC Lidingo, Sweden</i></p> <p>Just a few words below from our <i>group-discussion</i> together with Karin Lange, Maria José Landeira Oestergaard (Denmark), Marion Lenz (Germany) and me.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the long term we need to work very feministic towards governments and remember the three Rs: Rights, Representation, and Resources.</li> <li>• Governments need to address women’s needs regarding climate change since women are more vulnerable. She said that we need to give input to our Ministers of Foreign Affairs to push the shift that is needed.</li> <li>• In the short-term, the current work with the evacuation and preparedness work is appreciated.</li> <li>• It is suggested that Zonta should have one activity like Zonta Says No, to focus on gender-equal climate justice in the districts and clubs around spring time eg join Earth Hour or something similar.</li> <li>• We also discussed the importance of sharing stories among Zontians all around the globe -as we have started now with our Think Tanks, and also we could share these stories within our clubs to spread awareness.</li> <li>• We also mentioned the potential if we work together with our local authorities.</li> <li>• And finally we emphasised the importance of Zonta’s scholarship Women in STEM for our Zonta climate justice work.</li> </ul>
5.	<p><i>Actions from the April meeting</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collate and share frameworks received to date.</li> <li>• Continue to liaise with Zonta International re the survey</li> </ul>
6.	<p><i>International News</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IPCC Climate Change 2023 Synthesis <a href="#">Report</a> has been released.</li> <li>• See Zonta Advocacy <a href="#">Webinar</a> featuring Lily Odarmo which provides interesting insights into funding energy projects in Africa.</li> <li>• See the video recording of the Diversity <a href="#">Webinar</a> held on 28 April.</li> </ul>
7.	<p>Next meetings – please put these dates in your calendar.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sunday 21 May 12 to 1.30 pm UTC</li> <li>• Sunday 18 June 6 to 7.30 pm UTC</li> </ul>