

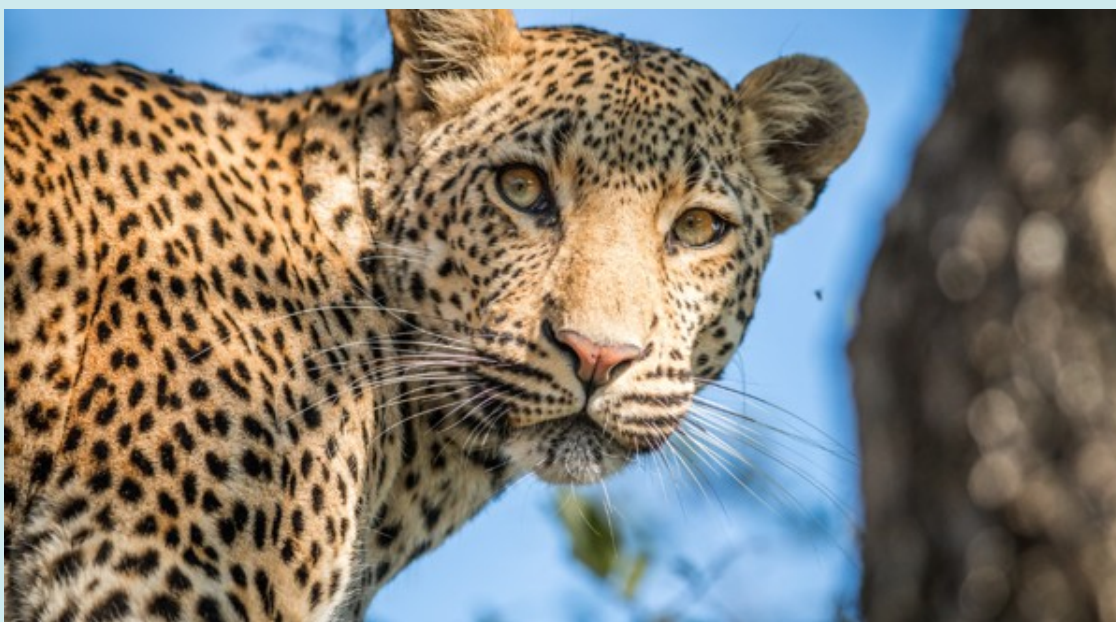


Intercontinental Think Tank UPDATE

In this June 2026 Zonta Says NOW Intercontinental Think Tank Update:

- [Looking Back On The Biennium](#)
- [Transforming Climate Action](#)
- [Act On The GAP](#)
- [The Climate Negotiations You May Never Have Heard Of](#)
- [Women Delivered In 2026](#)
- [Join Zonta Says NOW In Vancouver](#)
- [How We Stepped Forward for Equality](#)
- [Passing The Baton: Onwards and Upwards](#)

Looking Back on the Biennium



During this 2024-2026 biennium, the Zonta Says NOW Working Group focused on helping members understand the many dimensions of climate justice and their connection to gender equality. Together, we:

- Hosted 12 Intercontinental Think Tanks with 14 external specialist speakers
- Produced 18 editions of the UPDATE
- Developed 5 publications
- Created 4 educational videos
- Followed international climate negotiations from the COP process to UN meetings
- Connected hundreds of Zontians across every region of the world

But the real measure isn't in the list, it's in the understanding built along the way. Members explored everything from financing climate justice and menstrual health sustainability to leading from the heart and working with men.

We now understand the challenges facing Pacific Island women, how plastic pollution affects women's health, have joined the dots between climate and conflict, and have learned how to make cities climate-resilient.

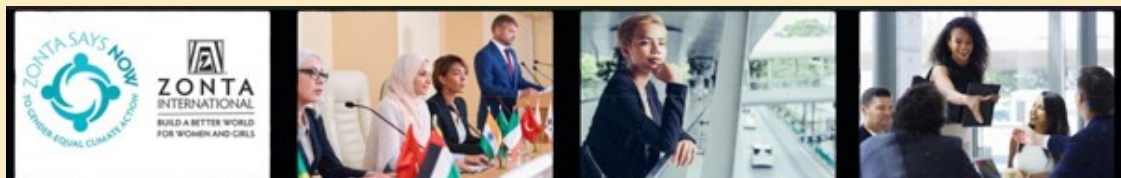
Every Think Tank, publication, and conversation helped move Zonta's Statement on Climate Change from words on a page into practical action. This is the final UPDATE in its current format, but the work continues. Climate justice remains one of Zonta International's four causes, and the foundations built here will keep supporting advocacy and action long after this email lands in your inbox.

Progress is rarely a straight line. It is built through thousands of conversations, shared ideas and collective actions. Thank you for being part of that journey.

Reflections of the 2024-2026 biennium

[Back to top](#)

Transforming Climate Action



Transform Climate Action

Women as leaders and decision makers for sustainable change

Intercontinental Think Tank Sunday 10 May 10 am UTC | Zonta Says NOW Working Group



Our final Intercontinental Think Tank, held in May, focused on a theme sitting at the heart of both gender equality and climate justice: women and sustainable decision-making.

The evidence is clear: when women participate fully in decision-making, communities, organisations and governments make better, more sustainable decisions. Yet barriers remain across political leadership, business, environmental governance, and community decision-making.

The session moved from why women's leadership matters and what holds it back, into something more useful: what Zontians can actually do about it. Examples were provided using the Zonta Says NOW framework for action: gather the facts, lead by example, use your voice, advocate, and collaborate.

At the NGO CSW this year, our Zonta Says NOW online workshop also focused on women and sustainable decision-making, and we will continue with this theme for the remainder of the biennium.

Our [Women and Sustainable Decision-Making](#) research paper, fact sheet, and recently updated infographic give members practical tools to keep this conversation going into the next biennium. The recordings of the NGO CSW and May presentations are on our Intercontinental Think Tank page.

Watch the CSW and May Think Tank Recordings

[Back to top](#)

Act on the Gap



The adoption of the Belém Gender Action Plan ([GAP](#)) at COP30 marked one of the most significant advances for gender-responsive climate action in recent years.

The nine-year plan, running through to 2035, provides a practical framework for integrating gender equality across climate policies, programs, and investments. It moves the conversation beyond recognising women's vulnerability and toward something more powerful: women's leadership, participation, and agency.

Governments are preparing for November's [COP31](#) conference in Antalya, Türkiye. The event will be hosted by Türkiye with negotiations led by Australia.

COP 31 will see attention move from negotiation to implementation. Will countries translate commitments into action? Will women gain greater access to climate decision-making? Will climate policies finally address the gender inequalities they have so often overlooked? This will be the first test for the Belem GAP.

Learn more about the Belem Gender Action Plan

The Climate Negotiations You May Never Have Heard Of



While COP meetings attract global attention, much of the detailed work happens quietly in Bonn, Germany, at the annual climate meetings of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies. [SB64](#) is currently underway, serving as the technical and policy engine room behind every COP that follows.

The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice ([SBSTA](#)) considers the scientific and technical evidence, while the Subsidiary Body for Implementation ([SBI](#)) reviews how countries are actually delivering on their commitments.

Importantly for Zontians, Bonn is also home to the UNFCCC Gender Unit, which coordinated development of the Belém Gender Action Plan. The Women and Gender Constituency — the civil society voice at the UNFCCC, of which Zonta International is a member — is using SB64 to push for:

- implementation of the Belém GAP
- progress on the Global Goal on Adaptation
- a genuinely just transition through the new Belém Antalya Mechanism ([BAM](#)) and
- reforms that strengthen civil society's seat at the table.

The decisions made in Bonn today will shape the outcomes of COP31 tomorrow.

Follow the Women and Gender
Constituency

Women Delivered in 2026



With more than 6,000 participants from over 170 countries, [Women Deliver 2026](#) in Narm (Melbourne) demonstrated the growing momentum behind gender equality and climate justice. Across workshops, panels and networking events, one message emerged again and again: climate justice is gender justice.

Zonta was well represented. Bridget Mather (Chair, Zonta Australia), Sharyl Scott (Zonta UN ESCAP Representative), Carole Theobald (International Zonta Says NOW Chair) and Lyn Foley (Remarkable Women Powerful Stories) connected with advocates, researchers, policymakers, and community leaders working at the intersection of gender equality and climate action.

Particular attention was given to implementing the Belém GAP and to the voices of Indigenous women, young women, and communities living on the climate frontlines.

The conference's landmark outcome, the [Melbourne Declaration for Gender Equality](#), reinforces priorities that resonate strongly with Zonta's own mission: climate justice, democratic participation, Indigenous leadership, and sustained investment in women and girls. It's a reminder that Zonta is part of a much larger global movement toward a fairer, more sustainable future.

Read Zontians' Reflections on
Women Deliver 2026 here

Join Zonta Says NOW in Vancouver



The Zonta Says NOW story continues at Convention. Building on our work around sustainable decision-making, we're hosting both a virtual webinar and an in-person workshop on how women lead sustainable change in communities around the world.

- **Virtual Webinar** — Women and Sustainable Decision-Making with Zonta Says NOW, Friday 10 July, 1.00 pm to 2.00pm Vancouver time, streamed via the Whova app.
- **Face-to-Face Workshop** — Transform Community: Women as Leaders and Decision-Makers for Sustainable Change, Saturday 11 July, 1.00pm to 2:30 pm Vancouver time. We hope to be joined by Nadine Jarry and members of Women4Climate Vancouver, who run mentorship and training programs for women leading on sustainability.

We're also excited about the Zonta Says NOW Walk, Saturday, 11 July, 7:30 am to 9:30 am, along Vancouver's spectacular seawall.

Perhaps the most inspiring development is that members who can't make it to Convention are planning their own local walks in Zonta Says NOW colours, gathering afterwards at a coffee shop to share fellowship and ideas. It's a simple reminder that meaningful change often begins with people coming together, wherever they are.

Zontians must register for the Convention to attend, in person or virtually.

Zonta International Convention

How We Stepped forward for Equality on Earth Day



Earth Day 2026 gave Zontians a chance to put gender-equal climate justice into physical motion. The Step Forward for Equality campaign centred on the footprint as its symbol — a reminder of both the carbon we leave behind and the many steps still needed to close the gap. Clubs ran the Step Forward Activity, stepping forward together in response to climate-related questions, while others used the Pairing Gender Equality with Climate Justice template to reflect on why both issues matter to them.

On Earth Day, the 2026 Collection of the Zonta Says NOW Virtual Art Gallery was launched. It features photographs, paintings, textiles, poems, and sculptures: every piece capturing what the health of the planet means to the person who made it, and what climate change threatens to take away. It's one of the most personal records of this biennium, told entirely through Zontian eyes.

There is always time to submit artwork to the gallery, as entries are open year-round! All Zonta members, as well as supporting, Golden Z and Z Club members, and their immediate families can enter!

[Visit the Virtual Art Gallery](#)

[Back to top](#)

Passing the Baton: Onwards and Upwards



After leading the Zonta Says NOW Working Group since 2022, Carole Theobald will be stepping aside as Chair at the conclusion of this biennium.

She says:

It has been a privilege to work with such a talented and committed team, and to connect with Zontians from around the world who share a passion for gender-equal climate justice.

The time is right for new leadership and new ideas. I am delighted that Julie Trone will lead the Working Group into the next biennium. Julie has been involved since the very beginning — most recently leading our Virtual Art Gallery — and brings deep knowledge, enthusiasm, and vision to the role.

Leadership is not about holding a position forever. It is about creating strong foundations, supporting others to step forward, and ensuring the work continues to grow. I am excited to see where the next chapter takes Zonta Says NOW.

While I will continue to support Zonta Says NOW when needed, my focus will increasingly turn to advancing climate justice advocacy in Australia.

In the next biennium, the Zonta Says NOW format may change, but the mission remains the same. Together, we continue working towards a future where gender equality and climate justice go hand in hand.

Onwards and upwards in 2026-2028!

[Back to top](#)

Zonta Says NOW
to Gender-Equal Climate Action
8 Cormorant Cross, WILLETTON, Western Australia
info@zontasaysnow.org.au

This email was sent to {{ contact.EMAIL }} You received this email because you registered for a

Zonta Says NOW Intercontinental Think Tank meeting.

[Unsubscribe here](#)

Register for the Intercontinental Think Tank Mailing List [here](#)

Download Zonta Says NOW international resources [here](#)

View videos/slides of Zonta Says NOW Intercontinental Think Tanks [here](#)

View the Virtual Art Gallery [here](#)



© 2026 Zonta Says NOW Working Group