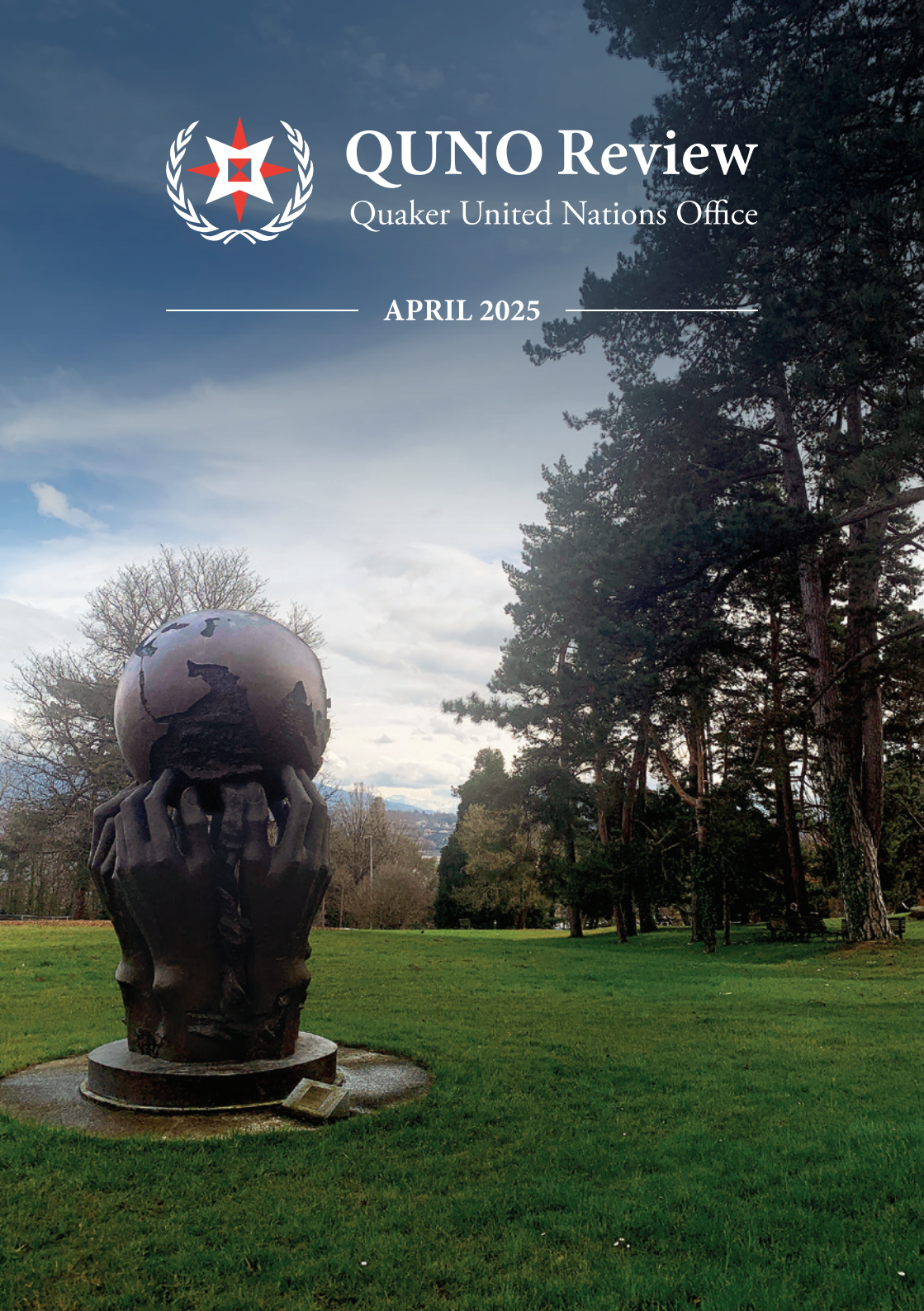




QUNO Review

Quaker United Nations Office

APRIL 2025





QUNO New York Director Sarah Clarke (far right) joins QUNC members (left to right) Hezron Masitsa, Wycliffe Kibisu and Rachel Singleton-Polster at the 2024 FWCC World Plenary Meeting in South Africa.

Who we are

The Quaker United Nations Office, located in Geneva and New York, works to promote peace and justice at the United Nations and other global institutions. Our work is rooted in the practices, insights and concerns of the global community of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers).

QUNO is supported by the American Friends Service Committee, Britain Yearly Meeting, the worldwide community of Friends and other groups and individuals. It represents Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers), an international nongovernmental organization with General Consultative Status at the UN.

We work steadily to bring Quaker peace and justice concerns to international processes. In New York we focus on thematic and country-based issues to increase global commitment to the UN's role as a promoter of peace. Our

Geneva office focuses on the areas of human rights and refugees, peace and disarmament, sustainable and just economic systems, and the human impacts of climate change.

We strive towards international standards and practices that enable and empower peaceful social, political and economic relationships. We are committed to supporting international processes that can build a safer, sustainable and more just world.

Our work is rooted in the Quaker testimonies of peace, truth, justice, equality and simplicity. We understand peace as not only the absence of war and violence, but the need to look for what seeds of war there may be in all our social, political and economic relationships. Quakers recognize the equal worth of every person, and Quaker work strives to be an outward expression of these values, living faith through actions rather than through words.

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QUNO Geneva staff
from left to right - Back
row: Johan Cavert, Laurel
Townhead, Andrés Naranjo,
Yvette Issar, Sophie Naeye.
Front row: Virginie Blumet,
Lindsey Fielder Cook.
Separately: Kaya van der
Horst.



QUNO New York staff
from left to right - Back
row: Chelsea Comas, Bo
Méndez, Kavita Desai,
Daulton Beck. Front row:
Jessica Walker-Keleher,
Ailiah Weeldryer, Sarah
Clarke. Separately: Nyeri
Otero Flanagan, Natalie
Dewar.



Clockwise from top: Lindsey Fielder Cook addresses attendees at a conference on climate change, QUNO Programme Assistants join visitors from Young American Friends (YAF) at the UN campus in New York, QUNO UN Representative Kavita Desai delivers remarks on the floor of the UN in New York, QUNO partners brief UN diplomats on the conflict situation in Myanmar, the latest cohort of the Quaker UN Summer School (QUNSS) pose in front of the UN campus in Geneva.

A Message from our Directors



Over recent months, we have been asking ourselves and those around us, “What helps us connect?” and “What brings us energy?” Energy and connection are vital to our work at the UN to uphold the dignity and worth of every person so that peace can flourish. These essential questions help us maintain our resolve when this work feels challenging.

During the past year, our staff in Geneva and New York have watched repeated instances when countries have ignored basic tenets of international law and have not lived up to their commitments under the UN Charter. This landmark Charter agreed to “save succeeding generations from the scourge of war”, an aim Friends share, but that is not yet a reality for all.

Events during 2024, particularly the international community’s inability to take unified action to protect lives in situations such as Gaza, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Myanmar, undermine the legitimacy of the UN in the eyes of many. The weakening of international frameworks forged for the benefit of all, such as the Paris Agreement on climate change

and the Global Compact for Migration, also undermines the legitimacy of the UN. In this context, it is easy to feel discouraged and frustrated. Yet, we draw energy and inspiration from our daily connections with individuals – not just those with direct experience of conflict and injustice, but also diplomats and UN officials doing everything they can to explore creative new solutions, maintain dialogue, and forge alliances. We are grateful that small and middle-sized nations continue to assume leadership roles despite political deadlock and power imbalances. We take comfort in the widespread acknowledgement that the global coordination, dialogue and connection of multilateralism are necessary for peace and justice.

This past year, we have also felt deep gratitude for the opportunities to connect and gain energy from the worldwide community of Friends. Participation in Yearly Meetings and at the World Plenary convened by the Friends World Committee for Consultation in Johannesburg, South Africa, allowed us to share our work and learn more about the concerns of Quaker communities around the globe.

As we continue our work in 2025, we draw energy from and connect with the opening words of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which remind us that “the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world”. This is as true today as it was when it was drafted over 75 years ago.

Sarah Clarke
Director, QUNO New York

Laurel Townhead
Director, QUNO Geneva

How we work

Bringing people together by connecting processes and policy:

Providing space for informal dialogue

QUNO often works behind the scenes, building trust by bringing together people from a range of backgrounds including diplomats, UN officials, staff of non-governmental organizations, academics, experts and practitioners. By creating space for quiet dialogue, we help shape UN and other international priorities, and we bring attention to issues that are not yet on the international agenda. The reputation and atmosphere of our Quaker Houses allows for the emergence of more reflective and inclusive responses to difficult issues, sharing ideas which might not be heard in more formal settings. The scale of international negotiations can feel challenging, but the trusting environment we provide, informed by Quaker methods, remains key to our work.

Engaging UN institutions:

Building awareness and advancing key peace and justice agendas

The strength of QUNO's work also lies in our long-term persistence. Through perseverance, we have helped to change attitudes, create new understandings, and develop new standards. For example, our work on child soldiers led to the topic being put on the UN agenda for the first time. Through our attention to disarmament, landmines and small arms issues, we have underlined the destabilizing impact of the weapons of war. We have helped shape UN priorities for peacebuilding on the ground, upholding the value of reconciliation and dialogue across all societies. Our work on the Sustainable Development Goals led to a global and universal commitment to foster peace, justice and inclusion as a fundamental component of humanitarian and development objectives.

Research and publications:

Developing an evidence base and identifying good practices

QUNO produces an extensive range of specialist publications. We are recognized as a catalyst, partnering with others to harness their expertise and knowledge, particularly from beyond the UN system, and bringing these insights to the attention of policymakers, often providing it in a more accessible form. We have leading expertise on many areas including peacebuilding, conscientious objection to military service, and the situation of women prisoners and children of prisoners. In our work on climate change and economic systems, we bring attention to the human impacts, stressing the importance of equity and sustainability. For a list of our recent publications, see pages 26-27.

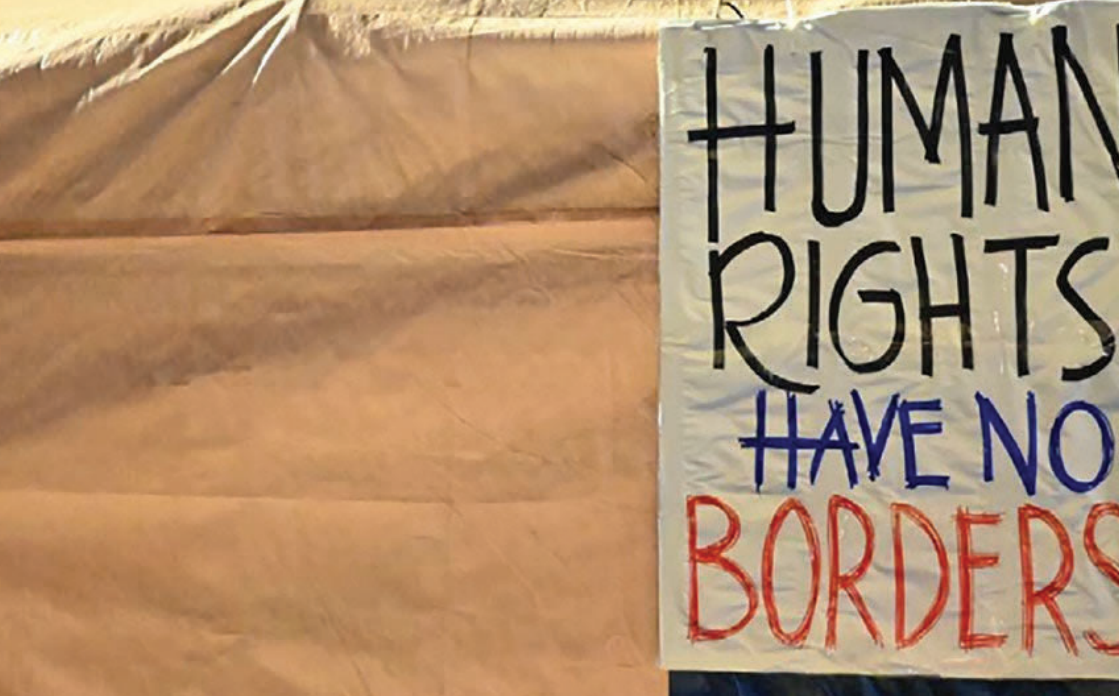
Engaging young people:

Involving Quakers and others from around the world

QUNO is committed to supporting the engagement of young people in this work. Both the New York and Geneva offices host paid one-year Programme Assistant positions, providing a unique capacity-building experience for young professionals interested in multilateral policy formation. Many go on to work in the areas of human rights, disarmament, peacebuilding, development and diplomacy. In addition, every July since 1955, QUNO Geneva has hosted a Summer School, giving around twenty-five young people an opportunity to learn more about the UN and QUNO's work there.

Side Event at the Arms Trade Treaty Conference of States Parties, QUNO Peace and Disarmament Programme Officer Chatrina Schumacher pictured on far right.





Poster outside the Whiskey 8 Solidarity Aid Station, credit: Danielle Cosmes, AFSC US-Mexico Border Program.

Human Rights and Refugees

The Human Rights and Refugees Programme works with, through and for international law and multilateral processes that honour the inherent dignity of every member of our human family. These are challenging times in which to move forward and we are grateful for the connections, collaborations and Quaker grounding from which we draw strength.

Recognizing that approaches to migration that fail to uphold the humanity of all members of our human family continue to be widespread, QUNO works for migration justice. We aim to counter dehumanization by prioritizing work that centres migrants' own expertise and experience and seeks to end violence in migration governance.

In collaboration with the Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung, QUNO hosted a third Inclusive Dialogue, bringing together diplomats and migrant experts from around the world. This dialogue built an environment of trust to enable exchange of ideas on the practicalities of meaningful migrant participation. Part of this dialogue responded to a discussion paper on migrant advisory boards commissioned from experts with lived experience as part of building QUNO's own practice of centring migrant expertise and seeking to co-create responses. With a focus on next steps, the ideas shared during this discussion continue to shape QUNO's work into 2025. Specifically, hosting platforms for migrants' own expertise and experience



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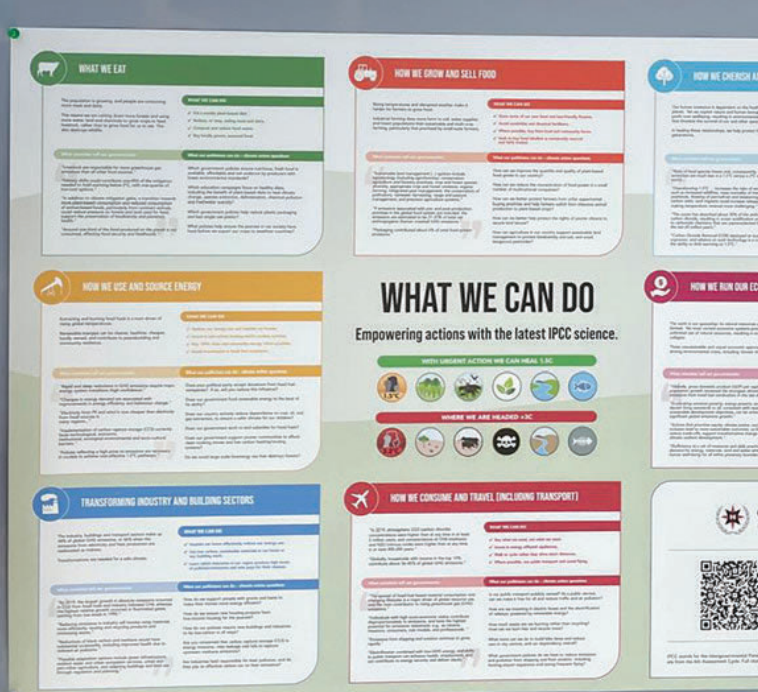


Maria Kamenias

shows promise to inform discussions in relevant UN processes.

QUNO continued to seek new avenues to address border violence, taking this work forward through participation in a Human Rights Council Intersessional Panel on Human Rights in Transit and the negotiation of a resolution focusing on narratives on migration and human rights monitoring. This was coupled with engagement with the UN Network on Migration's work to develop actionable guidance on missing migrants and humanitarian assistance to migrants in distress, reflected in the Secretary General's report on the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration.

QUNO works to support those who counter militarization by refusing to perform military service. This workstream also seeks to connect people who are directly affected with developments in the UN. QUNO hosted a dialogue with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to share findings for their most recent report with conscientious objectors and those advocating for and with them. Our 2025 plans focus on fostering connections and collaboration to seek ways to advance rights and dignity for all.



Human Impacts of Climate Change team members Anna Aguto and Lindsey Fielder Cook present a poster at United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) meetings in Bonn, Germany.

Human Impacts of Climate Change

The Human Impacts of Climate Change programme works across a range of international processes, including the UN climate change negotiations, the intergovernmental climate science body and the Human Rights Council.

We approach climate change as a peace and justice concern. We promote global policies that urgently, healthily and equitably transform the inter-related root causes driving existential rates of global temperature rise, species extinction and chemical pollution.

At the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), QUNO remains the only independent faith-based observer. We attended Plenary Meetings in Turkey and Bulgaria, where we made a series of [plenary interventions](#) to support the

integrity of the science. Part of this effort included questioning political pressure to ignore risks of expensive ‘techno-fixes’ which may not be implementable at scale and fail to transform unsustainable energy use, as well as unsustainable production and consumption patterns and industrial agriculture that drive planetary crises. In technical expertise we [published](#) a new briefing paper, “Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR): What is Sustainable and Just?”. We also completed a new translation of IPCC findings on urgent, healthy, equitable and available at scale climate action, now in [English](#), [Arabic](#), [French](#), and [Spanish](#). We produced similar translations of the booklet [What We Can Do](#), which connects grassroots climate groups with the latest IPCC science. This was transformed into a [poster displayed](#) at the Bonn UN Climate Conference.



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Lindsey Fielder Cook



Johan Cavert



Anna Aguto

We continue to offer quiet diplomacy dinners for a diverse group of climate negotiators at the UN Climate Conference. This offers a safe space to more openly discuss sensitive issues affecting progress at the negotiations. At the UN Climate Conferences, we also held several official [side events](#), spoke in [press conferences](#) on climate finance and militarism, and [supported inter-faith calls](#) for climate finance as a moral call to action.

Our work on climate change is grounded in a human rights-based approach. We make statements at the Human Rights Council, support UN Special Rapporteurs in research and reporting, and advocate for States to uphold their human rights obligations including to the newly recognized human right to a healthy environment. To support grassroots work,

we produced a QUNO guide to [‘Our Right to a Healthy Environment’](#) which breaks down the history, importance, and context of this right within the human rights system and its relation and intersection with other universal human rights.

Finally, we shared our work widely with Quaker organizations, Quaker meetings and interfaith groups - uplifting and supporting grassroots action on climate. Through publication of our monthly newsletter and webinar presentations on topics ranging from mitigation hierarchy to peace and climate action, we centre and share ethical examples of care for creation taking place across the globe.



QUNO Geneva staff co-leading a discussion on investors' human rights responsibilities in the arms sector.

Peace and Disarmament

QUNO's work on Peace and Disarmament is rooted in collective resistance to all wars and preparations for war. Our efforts stem from an understanding that peace is fundamentally linked with human rights, political participation and social and economic justice. In 2024 QUNO continued focusing on highlighting interlinkages between human rights and sustainable peace and the negative impacts of arms to people and communities. With the goal to contribute to global disarmament, QUNO works to ensure States' and the private sector's compliance with their human rights obligations and responsibilities respectively. For this effort, QUNO engages with multilateral processes and international standards, such as the Human Rights Council, the

Working Group on Business and Human Rights, and the Arms Trade Treaty.

QUNO supported the Human Rights Council resolutions on arms transfers and firearms including by participating in informal consultations and delivering statements at the Human Rights Council. To raise awareness of the Human Rights Council's timely work on arms amongst the arms control community, QUNO co-organised a side event at the Arms Trade Treaty 10th Conference of States Parties. This event highlighted the latest report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on the role of access to information in preventing, mitigating and responding to negative human rights impact of arms transfers. Access to information is a precondition



Florence Foster



Chatrina Schumacher

for prevention of and accountability for human rights violations and for access to justice and remedy. It is also essential to ensure public oversight of arms transfers decisions.

During the OHCHR Intersessional Workshop on Arms Transfers and Human Rights, QUNO contributed to the stocktaking discussions and the identification of gaps and future steps on the role of States and private sector in preventing, mitigating and addressing negative human rights impacts of arms transfers.

QUNO also leveraged the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights as useful international standards on human rights obligations of

States and responsibilities of the private sector. QUNO cooperated with the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights to ensure these Guiding Principles are also applied when it comes to arms. This included QUNO co-organizing a session of the United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights 2024 to give prominent attention to the topic.

As part of the overarching goal of global disarmament, these are steps we took in 2024 to show how international norms and standards do apply to the arms sector. By insisting on the consistent and effective application of international human rights law to all stakeholders involved in arms manufacturing and transfer, QUNO puts the human impact at the center of international discussion on arms.



Participants at a workshop organized by QUNO at the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Center, entitled "Plastic Money: Turning off the Subsidies Tap"

Sustainable and Just Economic Systems

The Sustainable and Just Economic Systems (SJES) programme has made substantial progress in 2024, advancing its work to address the root causes of plastic pollution while seeking to reform unsustainable patterns of production and consumption. This year, the programme focused on advocating for plastic subsidy reform, building impactful partnerships, and contributing evidence-based insights to key international processes.

A highlight of 2024 was the convening hosted at the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Center in Lake Como, Italy, in May. This gathering brought together experts and stakeholders to examine the environmental and economic implications of subsidies for primary plastic polymer production. Insights from the convening played a pivotal role in

shaping QUNO's engagement at international forums, particularly in advancing discussions on subsidy reform to address plastic pollution.

The SJES programme actively participated in the United Nations Environment Programme's Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) process to develop a global treaty to end plastic pollution. At INC-4 in Ottawa, Canada (April 2024), QUNO highlighted the critical importance of subsidy reform for an ambitious treaty. During INC-5 in Busan, South Korea (November/December 2024), QUNO co-hosted a side event to present findings from its "Plastic Money" initiative. The event, attended by negotiators from over 12 countries, underscored the environmental and trade impacts of subsidies and generated significant stakeholder interest.



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Andrés Naranjo



Ronald Steenblik



Nozizwe
Madlala-Routledge

The “Plastic Money: Turning Off the Subsidies Tap” initiative remains central to our work. Phase 1, completed in August 2024, provided foundational estimates of the scale of subsidies to plastic production. Building on this, Phase 2, completed in November 2024, estimated these subsidies at \$45 billion annually, using updated datasets and expanded modeling conducted by Eunomia Research & Consulting. Supported by a significant grant from the Rockefeller Foundation under the “Uncommon Collaborations” programme, the initiative exemplifies QUNO’s capacity to leverage partnerships for impactful advocacy. Securing funding for Phase 3, which will explore partial subsidy removal scenarios and their environmental impacts, remains a priority for 2025.

QUNO also delivered a legal analysis on the compatibility of subsidy reform proposals with World Trade Organization (WTO) rules.

Finalized in September 2024, this analysis addressed concerns from member states and strengthened the case for integrating plastic subsidy reform into both the INC and WTO dialogues. Additionally, QUNO continued its engagement in the WTO’s Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform working group, advocating for the inclusion of plastic subsidies within its scope.

Looking ahead, the SJES programme aims to secure ambitious subsidy reform commitments within the INC process, advance its work with the WTO, and secure funding for Phase 3 of the “Plastic Money” initiative. It also plans to undertake a scoping exercise to explore broader systemic economic reforms. Through these efforts, QUNO remains committed to fostering sustainable and just economic systems grounded in environmental stewardship and respect for human rights.



QUNO Programme Assistant Ailiah Weeldreyer takes part in the annual Civil Society Townhall with the President of the UN General Assembly.

Strengthening the UN to Build Lasting Peace

In New York, all of QUNO's work aims to increase support for the UN's role in building lasting and sustainable peace. This overarching strategy is firmly rooted in the Quaker commitment to non-violence and the belief in the inherent worth and dignity of each human being. In this effort, QUNO works closely with UN diplomats, officials, and civil society partners, often using Quaker House to convene briefings and discussions, in order to build relationships and trust. In keeping with Quaker practice, an essential aspect of QUNO's approach involves uplifting the voices, concerns, and insights of those whose lives are touched by violent conflict and injustice.

During 2024, QUNO applied this strategy to areas of UN work where we could make a difference. This included engagement in the lead up to the UN Summit of the Future; work on UN Sustainable Development Goal 16; ongoing advocacy around the need for a cease-fire and humanitarian access in Gaza; promotion of engagement to end the conflict on the Korean Peninsula; and creating space to lift up voices for peace in Myanmar.

Summit of the Future

Through our role as co-facilitator of The Civil Society-UN Prevention



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Sarah Clarke



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Nyeri Otero-Flanagan



Chelsea Comas



Ailiah Weeldreyer

Platform, QUNO has engaged in the processes stemming from the UN's 75th anniversary in 2020. Following the UN 75 commemoration, the Secretary-General released the Our Common Agenda report, which created many tracks that culminated in September 2024 with the Summit of the Future (SoTF). Specifically, the UN-Civil Society Prevention Platform actively worked on the New Agenda for Peace policy paper launched in 2023. Highlights from the Platform's work include preparing a submission paper with inputs and policy recommendations for the UN and continuing to host discussions to better connect UN policy with local stakeholders and the support needed at the community level.

The UN Civil Society Conference in Nairobi in May 2024, a Global Digital Compact,

the New Agenda for Peace, and other negotiating tracks and UN meetings also fed into the main SoTF outcome called the 'Pact for the Future'. QUNO and AFSC staff participated in the 2024 UN Civil Society Conference, which brought together over 1500 participants from around the world. The CSO Conference provided a unique space for civil society representatives to network and coordinate ahead of the SoTF. However, negotiations for the 'Pact for the Future' were incredibly challenging due to restrictions on civil society's access to information and the negotiations. The UN strictly enforced the restrictions on civil society because a small group of countries persistently advocated for civil society to be excluded on the grounds that negotiations were supposed to be only for Member States.

Sustainable Development Goal 16

In 2024, the UN placed a review spotlight on Sustainable Development Goal 16

(SDG 16) to achieve peaceful, just, and inclusive societies. This once-in-four-year review provided an opportunity for data collection, analysis, and sharing of activities around SDG 16. QUNO's work encompassed several areas to touch upon different aspects of SDG 16.

QUNO undertook work on inclusive institutions, launching a UN-Civic Space research project. The research paper was inspired by difficulties QUNO NY had in accessing information about, and in engaging with UN processes. The paper also recognizes concerns of shrinking civic space at the UN headquarters following the COVID-19 pandemic. Looking at negotiated resolutions and best practices in NY, QUNO has identified a clear trend leading up to the pandemic of increasing inclusion and acknowledgement of the expertise and contributions civil society bring to UN processes.

Working towards peaceful and inclusive

QUNO Representative, Kavita Desai (center), with fellow members of the Transparency, Accountability, and Participation (TAP) Network.



societies, QUNO NY took on a leadership role in the Transparency, Accountability, and Participation Network (TAP) SDG 16 coalition and campaign. The TAP Network is an international coalition of over 300 civil society organizations working to implement SDG 16 and the 2030 Agenda through sharing advocacy and collaboration. QUNO took on the role of co-chairing the peace working group, helping define the campaign priorities and activities for the coming year. QUNO hosted webinars and events through TAP to advance SDG 16 work globally to distill common interests and an advocacy strategy across the coalition, providing inputs to the SDG 16 review conference and connecting this work to the UN Nairobi Civil Society Conference and other UN discussions.

QUNO has also engaged in collaborative work that speaks to all three aspects of SDG 16. QUNO NY, in cooperation with AFSC and the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC),

developed and hosted several Peace Games. The Peace Games are innovative simulations where participants engage in mock UN negotiation processes. QUNO hosted Peace Games at the UN Church Center on women, peace and security in the Korean peninsula, fossil fuel reduction in a fictional geographic setting for participants from the UN System, diplomats and civil society representatives. Additionally, QUNO, GPPAC, and AFSC piloted a peace games simulation of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture Review for a GPPAC Central and Western Africa Regional Consultation held in Kampala, Uganda.

During the coming year, QUNO will continue to uplift inclusive approaches to achieve SDG 16.

Seeking Peace in the Israel-Palestine Conflict

Quakers have a long history of presence and peace work in the Middle East region

QUNO joins other ecumenical partners in a vigil for peace in Israel-Palestine.



dating back to the 1860s. The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) started working in Palestine in 1948 when the newly-formed UN tasked the organization to respond to the needs of those displaced by the Nakba, which means 'catastrophe' in Arabic and is the term used to describe the mass displacement and dispossession of Palestinians during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war.

In New York, QUNO's focus on Israel-Palestine has emerged from a close partnership with AFSC's regional programming and collaboration with other ecumenical organizations as a member of the NGO Working Group on Israel-Palestine. QUNO and our ecumenical partners have advocated with UN Member States for humanitarian access to Gaza, including through a well-resourced UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). Political attacks on the UN, and UNRWA, over the last year have undermined resources for humanitarian aid. Additionally, international cooperation for potential solutions in combination with the

use of the US veto in the Security Council paralyzed political progress towards the cessation of violence.

Against this backdrop, interfaith activities have uplifted the dignity and humanity of Palestinians. The NGO Working Group hosted vigils outside the UN and US Mission and provided a platform for Palestinian speakers such as Reverend Dr. Issac Munther. QUNO staff also participated in a spring 5K for UNRWA-USA, raising funds towards mental health counselling and psychosocial support services for children in Gaza.

Engagement for Peace on the Korean Peninsula

Working in partnership with our colleagues at the American Friends Service Committee and leaders from other ecumenical organizations, QUNO seeks out opportunities to promote dialogue and engagement for peace on the Korean Peninsula. During 2024, a highlight of this work included the launch of the book

QUNO Director, Sarah Clarke (left), moderates a book launch event for *Beyond the Armistice*.



Beyond the Armistice: Efforts for Peace on the Korean Peninsula published by the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies. The event provided an opportunity to hear the stories of dedicated and creative people who have committed their lives to work for a solution to the Korean War. One outside speaker also focused on the potential of trust building and diplomatic actions to gradually reduce tensions and lay the groundwork for peace and stability on the peninsula.

During 2025, QUNO will continue facilitating and advocating for a move away from an approach that emphasizes isolation and punishment in favour of diplomatic engagement, which holds the potential to build sustainable peace.

Voices for Peace in Myanmar

In 2024, QUNO continued to bring UN actors together to learn more about the complexities unfolding in Myanmar. Sessions took place at Quaker House, providing a space for guests to engage

in frank conversation around the dire situation on the ground and possible responses by the international community. By convening these conversations, QUNO ensured that diplomats and UN staff have the information needed to push for solutions that will ensure the protection of civilians and support leaders working for long-term peace.

During 2024, outside guests provided analysis of the rapidly changing conflict situation as well as the dire need and many challenges around the provision of humanitarian assistance. Briefings offered concrete recommendations around the need to support the civil disobedience movement and other forms of nonviolent resistance as they build new sources of solidarity, connection, and inclusion within the general public. Guests also pointed to the important leadership role of women, and the urgent need for protection and peace for women and girls in Myanmar.

QUNO Director, Sarah Clarke (back) hosts members of the Women's Advisory Coalition, Myanmar for a meeting with diplomats.



Other Quaker Work at the UN

Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC) continued its role as the lead on Indigenous Peoples' human rights at the United Nations. Guided by the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, we actively engage with advocacy efforts for implementation at the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII). In 2024, CFSC was honoured to participate in and support our Indigenous partners once again at these forums. As part of this support, CFSC and QUNO provided meeting space to the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus every morning of the PFII at Quaker House in New York. This was a particularly important opportunity as the theme for 2024 included, "emphasizing the voices of Indigenous youth."

The year also saw greater progress toward the full implementation of the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* globally. CFSC and the Coalition for the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples celebrated two major rulings of the Supreme Court of Canada, which recognized the *Declaration* as binding and part of Canada's positive law. These cases set an important global precedent that the *Declaration* cannot be ignored and has serious legal implications for the advancement of Indigenous Peoples' human rights everywhere.

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) works for the reform of justice systems throughout the world, seeking a system of justice which promotes personal responsibility, mutual understanding and healing. FWCC representatives and QUNO staff have regularly attended the UN Crime Congresses and sessions of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna, meeting with and advising criminal justice professionals, government officials and delegates on issues such as restorative justice, the children of imprisoned parents and women prisoners. We are currently in a discernment process as to how to move this work forward. Meanwhile, we see the need to celebrate more widely and share insights from what has happened over so many years in the form of a publication or booklet sharing insights both for Friends wishing to work on Criminal Justice as well as Friends led to engage with the UN on other issues.

Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW), based in North America, is accredited to attend meetings of the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), climate negotiations (UNFCCC) and environment agency (UNEP) based on concern for how we live on and care for the Earth. QEW also works with partners to send Quaker delegations to take part in these meetings and events. QEW's mission at the UN is to learn and report back to its constituencies on what is happening internationally and to provide educational programming at the UN in these areas of concern. This broadens Friends' knowledge and helps Quakers discern what actions they may be led to take in a global context. QEW works with other Quaker groups, ecumenical and interfaith groups, and other civil society organizations. Visit quakerearthcare.org for more information.

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Quaker United Nations Committees

Quaker United Nations Committee Geneva



The work of QUNO Geneva is guided by the Quaker United Nations Committee, which is made up of members appointed by the Friends World Committee for Consultation and Britain Yearly Meeting.

David Bucura (Co-clerk), Helen Drewery (Co-clerk), Hezron Masitsa, Kate Graham (Treasurer), Mica Estrada, Oliver Robertson, Ronis Chapman, Ruth Harvey, Ruth Agoi (not pictured), Saskia Kuhlmann (not pictured).

Quaker United Nations Committee New York



The work of QUNO New York is guided by the Quaker United Nations Committee, which is made up of members appointed by the Friends World Committee for Consultation and the American Friends Service Committee.

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Autumn colours settle in at Quaker House in Geneva.

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(Note that this was originally published in The Friend on January 11, 2024)

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