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Quaker United Nations Office



Annual Report 2003



Quaker United Nations Office

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**Friends World Committee for Consultation
and
Britain Yearly Meeting**

The Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) represents Quakers through Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) at the United Nations and other multilateral institutions in Geneva and New York.

The work of QUNO Geneva is guided by the Quaker United Nations Committee (QUNC), which is made up of members appointed by FWCC and Britain Yearly Meeting. In 2003, QUNC members were:

Elizabeth Duke FWCC, Stephen Guloba FWCC, Eleanor Evans FWCC, Tom Head FWCC, Martin Kunz FWCC, Martin MacPherson BYM, David Maggs BYM, Penny McMillin BYM, David Newton BYM, Timothy Phillips BYM, Emma Rigby BYM and Val Ferguson BYM.

In 2003 the work of QUNO was undertaken by:

Brewster Grace (Director)
Trade and Development

David Atwood
Disarmament and Peace

Rachel Brett
Human Rights and Refugees

Helen McEvoy
Office Administrator

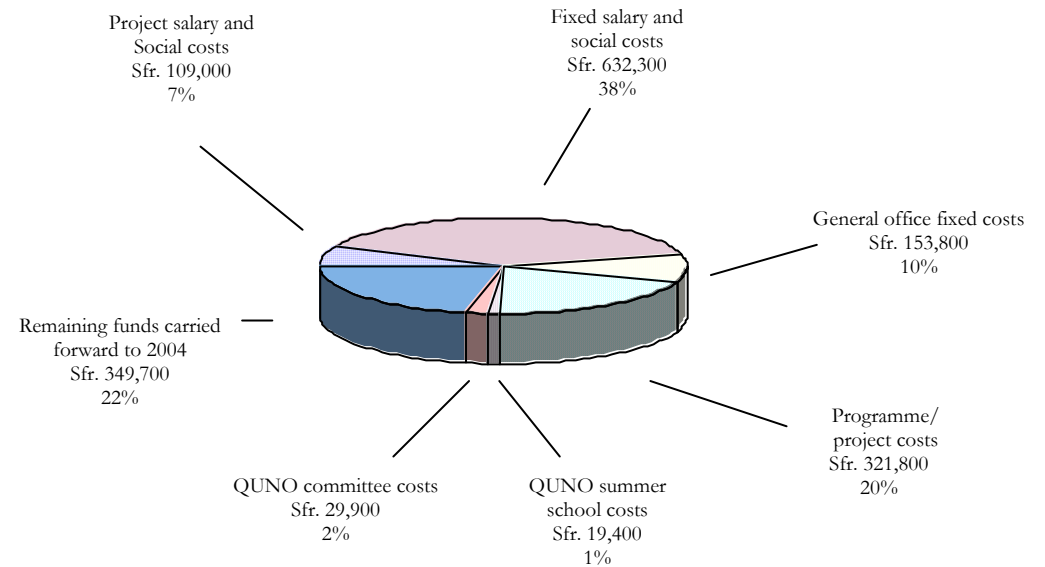
Eva Tanner
Financial Officer

Rebecca Kmentt
Communications Officer

Jonathan Hepburn
Programme Associate
(Trade and Development)

Rachel Taylor
Programme Assistant

How funds are used Sfr. 1,615,900



Thank You

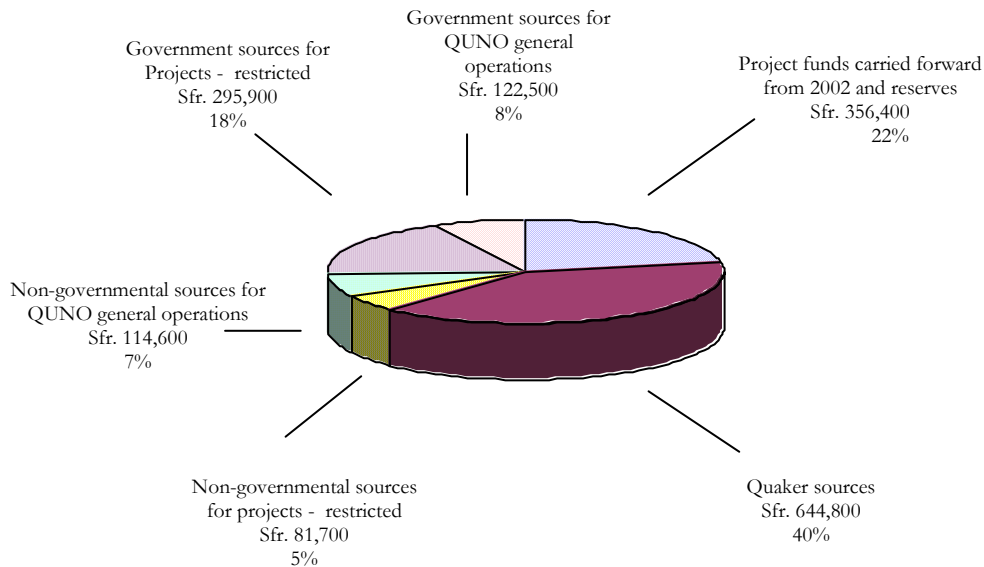
The healthy financial picture for 2003 has been possible only because of the generous support which QUNO receives from a broad range of donors. As noted, a substantial proportion of QUNO's fixed cost requirements are covered by Britain Yearly Meeting. Our remaining fixed costs were met by other contributions and through grants by both non-governmental and governmental sources. These sources also financed our programme activities. To all of our donors in 2003, may we extend our sincerest thanks. We are truly grateful.

(For those wishing more detailed financial information than provided here, please be in touch with us).

Financing QUNO

The Quaker United Nations Office requires two sorts of funds to finance its work: funds to meet its fixed costs and funds to support its projects. Fixed cost needs shift very little from year to year. Salaries must be paid, Quaker House must be run, phones and equipment paid for, required travel costs covered. QUNO is fortunate that a large percentage of its fixed cost requirements are met annually by Britain Yearly Meeting and contributions from other Quaker bodies. Project costs will vary from year to year, depending on the nature of activities undertaken and our ability to raise funds. In 2003, QUNO was successful in being able to cover its fixed costs as well as raise funds adequate to cover an extensive programme of activities.

Contributions and Grants Sfr. 1,615,900



A message from our committee

We are delighted to introduce the Annual Report for 2003 for the Quaker United Nations Office in Geneva. There has been much activity in the Geneva office this year and in this report you will find highlights of the activities of our staff across the three programme areas of QUNO—Trade and Development; Human Rights and Refugees; and Disarmament and Peace. You will also find summary information on the financial situation in QUNO.

Our Geneva office seeks to represent the concerns and interest of the world-wide membership of the Religious Society of Friends. The Quaker United Nations Committee, of which we are currently co-clerks, has the responsibility to help shape and guide the work of our staff in Geneva. With them, we seek to have a programme that is not only representative of key features of concern to Friends around the world but which also allows Friends to make a contribution to the valuable work of the UN.

We live in times that call for new thinking and creative ways of overcoming the threats which individuals, communities and societies around the world are facing. Our work at the United Nations is aimed at supporting appropriate and effective international mechanism for facing these challenges.

We would like to thank all those who have supported QUNO in 2003 through financial contributions and in many other ways and urge them to continue to support our work.

Tom Head
Co-clerk

Penny Williams
Co-clerk

A Year in the Life of the Quaker UN Office

It is my privilege to write a few introductory lines for this Report for 2003 from the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) in Geneva. I do so as the new Director of QUNO, having succeeded Brewster Grace in this role in January of this year. Brewster's leadership during 11 years as director fostered major developments in Quaker work at the UN and important changes in the oversight, funding, and management of this work. We thank Brewster for his lifetime of commitment to peace and justice and for the gift of his vision and skills to QUNO.

Annual reports seek but inevitably fail to capture the full life of an organization in any given year. The challenge is especially acute in trying to describe QUNO, as so much of our work involves "process" and only rarely can we see outcomes which result directly from initiatives we have taken. But ask a selection of diplomats or NGOs or staff at international institutions in Geneva and many will be able to recount some encounter with QUNO, some way in which our work has engaged them and they have been affected by it. In all three areas of our current work—Trade and Development, Human Rights and Refugees, and Disarmament and Peace—we can point to places where our initiatives in 2003 were important in fostering dialogue and opening spaces for progress. You will get some glimpses of this in the following pages.

Readers may be surprised to find that the major international crisis of the year - the war in Iraq - appears nowhere in these pages. This reflects the fact that our work at the UN in our priority areas is very much shaped by the institutions in the setting where we work. While we did what we could from Geneva, it was our colleagues at the Quaker UN Office in New York who were centrally engaged on the Iraq issue. Nevertheless, all of Quaker work at the UN—whether in Geneva, New York, or Vienna—is committed to building up the institutions of peace to where inevitable human conflict can one day be settled through non-violent and just means and no longer sought through the false hope of militarism and the use of violence.

Disarmament and Peace

"Curbing the Demand for Small Arms: Focus on Southeast Asia." Summary report from the workshop held in May 2002, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. D.Atwood and C. Buchanan.

"Disarmament and Human Security: Back to Basics or a New Paradigm?" Presentation to the Secretary General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, July 2003. D.Atwood

"A Summary of Lessons on Small Arms Demand and Youth" from the workshop "Small Arms Demand in the Caribbean: Special focus on Haiti and Youth Issues," 8 – 13 June 2003, Port-au-Prince, Haiti. D.Jackman

"Seminars on Small Arms" (Vol. 2) Edited by Andrew Prosser. A summary of Geneva Forum seminars 2000 - 2002. Hardcopy only, available on request to QUNO.

Trade and Development

Issue papers:

1. "Regional and bilateral agreements and a TRIPS-plus world: The Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) by D. Vivas-Eugui.
2. "Special and Differential Treatment of Developing Countries in TRIPS" by C. Michalopoulos.
3. "Multilateral agreements and a TRIPS-plus world: The World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)" by S. Musungu and G.Dutfield.

Series of occasional papers:

- No 11. "Non-violation Nullification or Impairment Causes of Action under the TRIPS Agreement and the Fifth Ministerial Conference: A Warning and Reminder" By F. Abbott, 2003.
- No. 12. "Establishing a disclosure of origin obligation in the TRIPS Agreement". By C. Correa, 2003.
- No. 13, Trade Diplomacy, the Rule of Law and the Problem of Asymmetric Risks in TRIPS, F. Abbott.

Background papers:

1. Patents, trade and health: Strong patent protection: how it affects access to medicines and development.
2. Patents, trade and food: How patents and other forms of legal protection affect food security, the environment and development.
3. Patents, trade and development: How patents and other forms of legal protection affect individuals and society in developing and developed countries.

QUNO Publications

Available at www.quno.org

Human Rights and Refugees

“Standing Invitations to Thematic Human Rights Mechanisms.” Joint written statement to the 59th Commission on Human Rights. R.Brett

“Specific Groups and Individuals: Mass Exoduses and Displaced Persons.” Joint written statement to the 59th Commission on Human Rights. R.Brett

“Rights of the Child.” Written statement to the 59th Commission on Human Rights. R.Brett

“Indigenous Issues.” Written statement to the 59th Commission on Human Rights. R.Brett

“References to Refugees and Asylum-seekers in the documents submitted to and resolutions of the UN Commission on Human Rights during the 59th Session.” R.Brett

“References to Conscientious Objection to Military Service in the documents submitted to and resolutions of the UN Commission on Human Rights during the 59th Session.” R.Brett

“References to Child Soldiers in the documents submitted to and resolutions of the UN Commission on Human Rights during the 59th Session.” R.Brett

“Position Paper on Indigenous Issues for ECOSOC Substantive Session of 2003.” R.Brett

“Shadow Play” Report on the 59th Session of the UN Commission on Human Rights. R.Brett


“Women in Prison.” Statement to the 12th Session of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

“Juveniles under Military Jurisdiction.” Joint written statement to the 55th Session of the Sub-Commission on Human Rights. R.Brett

“Why do adolescents volunteer for armed forces or armed groups?” Paper for Spanish Red Cross International Conference “Adding Colour To Peace”, Valencia, November 2003. R. Brett

A more lengthy report would also reveal the many ways in which QUNO worked in 2003, through alliances in Geneva and beyond with partner organizations. These partnerships include a range of Quaker agencies and groups at work in many regions of the world. 2003 also saw the continuation of our long tradition of hosting a summer school for young people, an important investment in the future.

While it is those who lead the programme areas of QUNO who usually get the visibility and the credit for QUNO’s work, this work would be impossible without the whole of our dedicated QUNO staff. Sincere thanks must go to Helen McEvoy, Eva Tanner, Rachel Taylor, Jonathan Hepburn, and Rebecca Kmentt at QUNO for their vital engagement throughout 2003. Thanks also to our colleagues at Friends House in London who supported us in so many ways, to those who worked with us as consultants or partners in our programmes, and to our Committee who provided invaluable guidance and support. And to all those around the world who hold QUNO in their thoughts and prayers.



David C. Atwood, Director
20 March 2004

Trade and Development

Brewster Grace

Programme objectives:

The TRIPS agreement in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) requires all member governments to put in place patent legislation. However, whether or not patents are helpful development tools in industrialising countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America is increasingly subject to heated debate in the WTO. Traditional communities of small farmers and indigenous peoples, for example, are concerned that patents held by biotechnology industries in developed countries will lead to misappropriation of their genetic resources in food and agriculture. And public health systems are alarmed at the high costs of patented essential medicines for HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other widespread diseases which severely limit their efforts to combat public health crises.

In 2003, QUNO worked closely with developing country WTO members to maximise the flexibilities in the TRIPS agreement that permit the use of cheaper generic medicines regardless of patents and to assure that the TRIPS agreement does not infringe on the rights of traditional communities enshrined in the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Food and Agricultural Organisation International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources.

Significant events:

QUNO convened a series of informal meetings with legal experts for developing country delegates who are engaged in negotiating an agreement that would provide legal security for countries that cannot manufacture medicines for public health crises. Such an agreement would allow them to issue compulsory licenses to generic industries in countries that do have the capacity to do so. These meetings were part of a process that led to an agreement in August establishing the legal rights to issue such compulsory licenses.

In a series of evening seminars, both developed and developing country delegations examined broader implications of TRIPS for developing countries as higher standards for patents are increasingly

QUNO has succeeded in raising the profile of conscientious objection to military service in a number of specific countries (notably South Korea, Israel and the Russian Federation) in conjunction with other national and international partners, in addition to continuing work on the general issue, including making statements to the UN Commission on Human Rights.

In August 2003, QUNO took up work on a new project concerning women's imprisonment, including the impact on children of their mother's imprisonment. This is being done in cooperation with the relevant British Quaker committee, the Quaker Council for European Affairs (Brussels) and the Quaker representatives to the UN Commission on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders (Vienna). QUNO Geneva has recently finished the first draft of a background paper on the topic. The initial work is due for completion by August 2004 to be presented at the UN Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. At QUNO's request, the Sub-Commission requested one of its members to prepare a working paper on the subject, with a view to a undertaking a full study, and the UN General Assembly referred to it in one of its resolutions.

Protection of refugees and asylum-seekers is difficult in the current climate, but QUNO persists in trying to maintain this long-standing Quaker concern. The primary focus is the constant reminder of the common humanity of those who remain and those who cross borders, even illegally.

In addition to work on specific issues, QUNO maintains its role as a facilitator and venue for informal, off-the-record discussions where difficult or sensitive issues can be explored across boundaries of country or regional divisions and as a collaborative process between non-governmental organizations, government representatives and staff of the various UN and other international organizations in Geneva.

Human Rights and Refugees

Rachel Brett

In 2003 QUNO continued to identify and illuminate unrecognized or under-considered areas within our fields of interest and expertise, and also to maintain the importance of human rights and refugee protection in an atmosphere characterized by repression and xenophobia.

On child soldiers, the most satisfying work was the completion of the “Voices of Young Soldiers” joint research project with the



International Labour Organisation. This identifies the reasons adolescents themselves give for volunteering for armed forces and armed groups. The results will be published as a book, Rachel Brett & Irma Specht: *Young Soldiers: Why They Choose to Fight* (ILO/

Lynne Rienner, 2004), as well as forming the basis for various presentations towards the end of 2003, in particular at the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. This research followed, and incorporated the results of, the research on girl soldiers undertaken jointly by the two Quaker UN Offices, and published as the *Voices of Girl Child Soldiers* series.

Besides producing these publications, QUNO has been active in advocating on these issues in a variety of forums, including the UN Commission on Human Rights, and continues to serve on the Steering Committee of the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, of which it was one of the founders.

introduced into bilateral and regional trade agreements requirements (“TRIPS plus”). These standards require even greater obligations and less flexibilities of developing countries. (See Issue Papers page 12).

Following the WTO Ministerial Conference in Cancun, QUNO organised a three day seminar for developing country delegates and experts to plan strategies for negotiating key TRIPS issues in the ongoing Doha Development Round of negotiations. Among the key issues discussed were how to implement the August 30th decision on compulsory licensing for the production of generic medicines and how to make “disclosure of origin” part of international intellectual property rights regimes.

All of these activities were supported by a consultative group of experts who interacted with delegations on specific negotiating issues and strategies relating to work on paragraph 19 of the Doha Declaration relating TRIPS and the Convention on Biological Diversity and the paragraph 6 negotiations on TRIPS and Health. More specifically, they have addressed a range of interlinking concerns focussing on the disclosure of origin for the source of genetic materials, options for the protection of “traditional knowledge”, and different means to try to ensure compatibility with CBD provisions on access and benefit-sharing for genetic materials. This work helped to contribute to several proposals to the TRIPS Council. The Consultative group met twice: in Geneva in May and November and two of its members joined the Quaker observer delegation to the WTO Ministerial in Cancun where they worked informally with several delegations on paragraph 19 and disclosure.

Publications:

QUNO continued its publication of occasional papers on narrowly focussed topics of particular relevance to TRIPS negotiators. It also launched a new series of “issue papers” that review and assess broader substantive policy issues for policy makers and persons with special interest in trade and intellectual property. In addition, a new series of background papers for a more general readership, especially NGOs working on public health and food security in both developed and developing countries, has been initiated. (See page 12 for a complete list of Publications).

Disarmament and Peace

David Atwood

QUNO, through its programme on disarmament and peace, seeks to assist regional and international processes in tackling the realities of weapons proliferation and their effects and developing nonviolent approaches to dealing with violent conflict. As has been the case for the last several years, the work of the programme in 2003 focused mainly on small arms and light weapons, the weapons of choice in most of the violent conflicts taking place in our world.

The small arms work had two key dimensions in 2003: activities to enhance the implementation of the 2001 UN Programme of Action (PoA) on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons and the further development of work on the so-called “demand” dimensions of the small arms problem. July 2003 saw the first of two Biennial Meetings of States (BMS) in New York. This meeting was important both in giving a mid-term report on how states were doing on the implementation of the PoA and also in sustaining momentum around action on small arms issues.

Preparation for the BMS was enhanced through four meetings of the “Geneva Process”, a series of joint meetings with members of delegations, UN agencies, and non-governmental organizations on small arms issues. This process was initiated and continues to be facilitated by QUNO, the UN Institute for Disarmament Research, and the Graduate Institute of International Studies in their joint *Geneva Forum* project on security issues. Two further meetings of the “Geneva Process” followed the BMS. The “Geneva Process” has come to be understood as a key “actor” in the evolution of small arms work at the multilateral level.

QUNO’s work on understanding small arms “demand” - why individuals and groups wish to acquire weapons – entered a new phase in 2003. QUNO received a two-year grant from the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade to deepen the work already undertaken and move “demand” more fully onto the international small arms agenda. As part of this, a workshop on “Small Arms Demand in the Caribbean: Special Focus on Haiti and Youth

Issues” was held in June in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, organized jointly with the American Friends Service Committee Haiti Project. In addition to shedding light on the particular dimensions of guns and youth in the Caribbean, this event proved an important gathering point for Haitian NGOs to meet each other and to reach out to others in their region.



Workshop in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. (June 2003)

Workshops for diplomats and others on understanding the “demand”-side of the small arms problem were held in New York and in Geneva in the second half of the year. Steps were also made in the elaboration of a major small arms demand research project being undertaken in 2004 with the Small Arms Survey organization.

Other areas of work in 2003 included activities on anti-personnel mines, biological weapons, the continuation of QUNO’s series on “humanitarian intervention” and other issues. While there are always more needs than energies and resources to meet them, in 2003 QUNO’s disarmament and peace programme continued to be seen as a valued contributor to steps towards a safer and more peaceful world.