



## highlights

For more than 50 years, the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) in New York City has witnessed to Friends testimonies at the international level. Today, in conjunction with QUNO-Geneva (Switzerland), we continue to labor with the global community to create a peaceful, just, and loving world.

QUNO-New York is a program of the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) administered by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). It represents Quaker groups and service bodies from around the world at UN headquarters. The Quaker UN program is focused on quiet diplomacy, bringing information and perspectives from Quaker experience on important issues to the attention of diplomats and UN staff.

Some of QUNO's most important work occurs at Quaker House, a four-story brownstone a few blocks from the UN. Here QUNO hosts luncheons and other meetings to bring together UN delegates and Secretariat and UN agency officials for informal exchanges on the critical issues they are facing.



**1920 - 1945** Friends were active with the League of Nations and the founding of the United Nations.

**1948** FWCC granted consultative status at the UN, enabling Quaker representatives to attend intergovernmental meetings and to make written and oral statements.

**1953** Quaker house is given to the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) by a small group of donors to support a permanent Quaker presence at the UN.

**1957** UN general assembly creates an economic commission for Africa. Private informal lunches take place at Quaker House, enabling diplomats from Black Africa to meet on an informal basis with a white South African diplomat.

**1960** Proposal for a UN study on the Economic Consequences of Disarmament arises from a luncheon discussion for diplomats at Quaker House.

**1961** Dag Hammerskjold, Secretary General, dies in air crash in the Congo. QUNO

is asked to organize private meetings of UN ambassadors to discuss appointment of a new Secretary General.

Discussions on world population take place at Quaker House, leading toward the World Population Conference of 1964.

**1962** During the Cuban missile crisis, AFSC and UN missions explore the possibility of sending a Quaker group to Cuba to improve U.S.-Cuban relations.

**1969 - 1971** Quakers lobby for a change of Chinese representation at UN from Taiwan to Beijing, thereby allowing all major nuclear powers to be represented at the UN. Quaker seminars held on the subject in six countries.

**1969 - 1972** QUNO chairs the Non-governmental Organization (NGO) Committee for the UN Conference on the Human Environment. This was the first NGO forum during a UN conference.

**1970** World Youth Assembly gathers in New York for the UN's 25th anniversary. A Quaker team of Young Friends from five countries attends

Initial discussions on the Law of the Sea Treaty take place at Quaker House.

**1972** Intensive consultation on Middle East is led by QUNO staff and visiting Friends.

**1976 - 1978** UN holds its first General Assembly Special Session on Disarmament. QUNO co-chairs the NGO committee and participates with others in giving the first oral statements made by NGOs to the UN.



QUNO staff Jack Patterson (left) and David Jackman (right) welcome Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge, South African Deputy Minister of Defense and member of Central and Southern Africa Yearly Meeting.



Participants at QUNO's Third Colloquium on Forests continue discussion during a coffee break.

**1979** For the first time, a Chinese diplomat takes part in a meeting at Quaker House; Soviets are also present with other representatives of the Security Council.

**1980** Through QUNO, the North Korean Observer Mission arranges for an AFSC delegation visit to North Korea, the first such visit by an American NGO.



Quaker House luncheons offer diplomats and UN staff a home-cooked meal and a quiet, informal space for dialogue.

**1980 - 1982** Quaker House is the venue of a series of meetings helping government representatives prepare for the Second Special Session on Disarmament, 1982. A Quaker representative addresses the Special Session.

**1984** QUNO begins work with delegates drafting an international convention on the rights of migrant workers, adopted by the General Assembly, December 1990.

**1986** Rigoberta Menchu, Guatemalan human rights advocate, addresses UN member governments' representatives at Quaker House.

**1987** Oscar Arias, president of Costa Rica, awarded Martin Luther King, Jr., Peace Prize at Quaker House.

**1988 - Present** Quaker House is the location for a series of meetings on peace in Korea, with North and South Korean diplomats meeting one at a time with a Quaker committee on Korea.



Quaker UN Committee provides guidance and support to QUNO staff.

**1988** Quaker House luncheons introduce the work of NGOs in Cambodia, including that of several Friends service bodies, leading to incorporation of a

Quaker perspective in UN peace plan.

**1989 - 1993** QUNO hosts the leadership of the Burmese democratic opposition at Quaker House in quiet one-on-one meetings with country representatives and UN agency staff.

**1993 - 1994** Meetings organized at Quaker House for diplomats preparing for the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, Egypt, 1994.

**1992-1995** In preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, QUNO hosts luncheons with a wide range of delegates, leading to a three-day colloquium at Mohonk Mountain House on follow-up to the conference platform.

**1996-2000** QUNO sponsors three Quaker Colloquia for Diplomats on Forests in a successful attempt to build consensus on the need to establish a permanent "home" for forests in the UN system.

**1997-2001** QUNO-New York and QUNO-Geneva help coordinate NGO participation at the UN Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.



Gathering over tea at Quaker House.

**1999-2001** In partnership with other Quaker service organizations, QUNO facilitates governmental and grassroots civil society initiatives in preparation for the UN World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

