

Dear Summer School Participant,

Once again, a huge congratulations on being accepted to attend the QUNO Geneva Summer School 2015!

It's a great opportunity, and a great experience – we're really excited to welcome you here to Geneva in a few short months.

Please find attached the first reading list, which we hope will help you really get the most out of Summer School. We've tried to give you a range of resources to look at, including videos, QUNO publications, blog posts and audio files – you'll find no 50-page journal articles here. The aim of this is to get you thinking around and exploring some of the themes we'll look at together, *not* to overwhelm you with tons of detail.

Note that this is reading list 1 of 2. This one is about introducing QUNO and the multilateral system to you – we'll be sending another along in a few weeks that will include recommendations from our Programme Representatives that will get you exploring our focus areas in more detail.

We hope you'll enjoy looking at these introductory materials, and that you won't be daunted by the task! **Please do make time to prepare ahead of Summer School.** The Summer School is a great opportunity to gain an insight into the work of QUNO and the UN, and the more preparation you put in now, the better prepared you'll be to engage with the issues, speakers and UN sessions in July. **In general, you'll get out of Summer School what you put into it.**

That said, we don't expect you to read absolutely everything we send to you! Look at the things that interest you and use the preparation as a time to learn about issues and think about new topics. Take some time to develop questions that you'll want to ask to the various experts, Mission Delegates, Geneva diplomats and NGO representatives that you'll have the chance to meet in July.

We have tried to send you resources that are available on the internet, free of charge. Please note that we don't expect you to buy any of the books if you can't get easy access to them through libraries or borrowing!

Best wishes,

David and Mihan – the Programme Assistants

Reading list #1

QUNO

Key information about QUNO can be found on our website: www.quno.org. We suggest you start with the following areas of our website:

- Information on the programmes of the QUNOs in Geneva and New York - "[Area of work](#)" section;
- Information about QUNO history, values, and staff - "[About us](#)" section.

We also encourage you to read the most recent issues of the **Geneva Reporter** and **QUNO's Review**, to learn about recent developments in our main areas of work:

- The most recent edition of our quarterly newsletter, the [Geneva Reporter](#);
- The **QUNO Review** covers our annual work - the 2014 edition can be found [here](#).

This [video](#) introduces some of QUNO Geneva's staff, our work and what is unique about what we do.

We would also recommend these two lectures:

- **Swarthmore Lecture 2012** by Rachel Brett, ex-QUNO Representative for Human Rights & Refugees - the audio link can be found [here](#);
- **Backhouse Lecture 2012** by David Atwood, former Director of QUNO - here are links to both a [video of the lecture](#) and the [accompanying publication](#).

The UN & Multilateralism

In 2015, we will really be digging deep into what 'multilateralism' means, and exploring the different ways in which institutions like the UN and other international organizations actually work. To get you thinking on these issues, try [this short blog post](#) by Oxfam's Strategic Advisor Duncan Green. Duncan updates his highly accessible blog every day and, even though his posts only take about 5 to 10 minutes to read, they deal with a huge breadth of fascinating ideas and concepts – it is well worth following if you have the time.

It is worth familiarising yourself with the United Nations itself. This short [video](#) explains briefly how the UN works. The [UN website](#) itself is, unsurprisingly, also a great source of information on both its current work areas and general structure.

There are also a number of **short introductory books on the UN** that you could check out, such as the trusty, balanced [Very Short Introduction](#) from Oxford University Press, or the slightly pacier [No-Nonsense Guide to the United Nations](#) from the New Internationalist. **Please note that we don't expect you to have read all of these books before you arrive at the summer school!** We raise them here only if you want to explore the issue further.

And, if possible, keep up to date with current affairs - many topical issues are likely to come up at the Summer School. Even if you can only spend 10 to 20 minutes a day catching the headlines, that would be a good start. Try to draw from as many different news sources as you can – the more perspectives the better!

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Reading list #2

1. Food and Sustainability (Susan Bragdon)

The [Hungry, Hungry Humans series](#) on grist.org: Nathanael Johnson, a food journalist for environmental website Grist, wrote this series in an attempt to separate ideology from evidence in the debate around what ‘food system’ can best feed our planet. There are 25 articles in the series, so please don’t feel obliged to read all of it (unless you want to) – instead, try the [introductory piece](#), which lays out the debate, and the [wrap-up article](#), which gives you the main takeaways.

Smith, C., Elliott, D., and Bragdon, S.H., (2015), *Realizing the Right to Food in an Era of Climate Change: The Importance of Small-scale Farmers*, (Geneva: QUNO) [attached]. Reading this short policy brief will bring you right up to speed with QUNO’s work on agriculture and agricultural innovation. It sets out to demonstrate that small-scale farmers are, through the innovative ways they manage their farms and promote biodiversity, at the forefront of the struggle against climate change.

De Schutter, O., (2011), [The World Trade Organization and the Post-Global Food Crisis Agenda](#), (Geneva: OHCHR): This report by the former UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Olivier de Schutter, asks whether the rules framework for international trade (as governed by the World Trade Organization, or WTO) gives countries the space they need to ensure their populations are ‘food secure’, in the aftermath of the 2007-8 global food crisis.

2. Human Rights and Refugees (Laurel Townhead)

Clapham, A., (2007), [Very Short Introduction to Human Rights](#), (Oxford: OUP). Obviously we don’t expect you to read the whole thing, but this is a really useful reference guide for any institutions or concepts you’re not familiar with.

While you are in Geneva, we hope that you will be able to attend some of the Human Rights Committee review of Canada (tbc). To prepare, [here is the website](#) with all relevant documents, including the State Party Report, List of Issues, and additional “Information from Civil Society”

Here are some materials relating to thematic human rights issues. The submissions below are very long, so please don’t read everything – just have a glance at the reports and to see what key issues are likely to come up:

The Rights of Indigenous Peoples

OHCHR (2013), Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations Human Rights System, *Introduction & Section 1.A*. Link [here](#).

Death penalty and children of parents sentenced to death

Child Rights Connect (2013), Children of parents sentenced to death or executed: How are they affected? How can they be supported? Link [here](#).

QUNO (2011), Collateral Convicts: If my parents go to prison, what happens to me? Link [here](#).

Protection at sea

On the topical issue of protection at sea, there are resources here:

<http://www.unhcr.org/pages/5357caed6.html> and there are two relevant press releases on the front page of the OHCHR website: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Pages/WelcomePage.aspx>

Finally, although technical, [this interesting blog by Bob Last](#) at the UK mission on the Human Rights Council (HRC), gives an insight into the Council and serves a reminder that diplomats are human after all...

3. Peace and Disarmament (Diane Hendrick)

These short documents will provide you with a brief intro to the basics of peacebuilding:

What is Peacebuilding? Significantly Different Perspectives on Peacebuilding:

<http://www.interpeace.org/publications/peacebuilding-and-policy-resources/145-what-is-peacebuilding-significantly-different-perspectives-on-peacebuilding-english>

What is Peacebuilding? Do no Harm, Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding:

<http://www.interpeace.org/index.php/publications/peacebuilding-and-policy-resources/146-what-is-peacebuilding-do-no-harm-conflict-sensitivity-and-peacebuilding>

An introduction to local first: development for the 21st century:

<http://www.actlocalfirst.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Local-First-summary-pamphlet-for-release.pdf>

Introducing 'The Doughnut' of social and planetary boundaries for development:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PCAx3TG8LkI>

4. The Human Impacts of Climate Change (Lindsey Fielder Cook)

The [Quaker Statement on Climate Change](#), drafted by QUNO, which gives a general Quaker understanding of the challenges before us.

An [example of civil society calls](#) for human rights in climate change actions.

A [useful blog unwrapping the climate justice and equity debate](#) in the UNFCCC negotiations.

We've also attached an interesting article to this e-mail that explores the science behind climate change. If you want to dig deeper into climate science, the most authoritative source is the [5th Assessment Report of the IPCC](#). Note the three working group summaries on the physical science (WG1), adaptation (WG2) and mitigation (WG3).

More generally, try browsing the official website for the [UN climate change negotiations](#).