

April 2019

QUNO welcomed USG  
and Senior Advisor  
on Policy to Quaker  
House 2

Letter from the  
Director 3

Update from our  
Geneva office 3

Partnering with the  
UN to strengthen  
inclusive approaches  
for peace 4

Staff comings and  
goings 5

QUNO attends FWCC  
Section of the Americas  
Meeting 6

Quaker UN Office  
777 UN Plaza  
5th Floor  
New York, NY 10017  
qunony@afsc.org  
www.quno.org

# In & Around the UN

## An Update from the Quaker United Nations Office

### United to reform: Landmark changes to the UN system



UN Peacekeeping Mission

© UN peacekeeping mission [website](#)

On January 1st, 2019, UN Secretary-General Guterres's sweeping reforms of the UN system officially took effect. To strengthen the UN's ability to maintain international peace and security and realize a "21st-century United Nations" focused more on people and less on process, broad changes have been made across the peace and security pillar and development and management systems.

The peace and security pillar has seen structural changes, including the creation of new departments, in order to be better positioned for the implementation of sustaining peace and prevention, enhance effectiveness and coherence, and align it more closely with the development and human rights pillars. Significant changes to the UN development system included the emergence of a new gen-

eration of country teams, while the management reforms aim to empower all staff and increase transparency and accountability.

In March, as co-facilitator of the Civil Society-UN Prevention Platform, QUNO hosted the first of a series of dialogues to discuss the real and practical impacts of the reforms. The first meeting provided a space for civil society to reflect, two months into its official implementation, on the impact of the peace and security pillar reform and to consider concrete areas for civil society to better engage with the UN to advance preventive approaches within the new structures. Civil society heard from UN colleagues working on the implementation of the reforms to get their perspectives on the major shifts that have taken place since the start of the reform

(continued on page 4)

## QUNO welcomed Under-Secretary-General and Senior Advisor on Policy to Quaker House



QUNO welcomed Under-Secretary-General Menéndez to Quaker House.

© QUNO

In January of this year, QUNO was pleased to welcome the Under-Secretary-General (USG) and Senior Policy Advisor, Ms. Ana Maria Menéndez, to a very informative off-the-record meeting at Quaker House. Ms. Menéndez has

played a central role in Secretary-General António Guterres's focus on conflict prevention since she was appointed in 2017. The

meeting provided an opportunity for open conversation with her, together with QUNO colleagues in New York and abroad, on how civil society can contribute to the Secretary-General's prevention agenda in an evolving

UN system.

Ms. Menéndez briefed those in the room on the UN's current approach towards prevention as an opportunity to strengthen the ability of all states to confront violent conflict and to consider as underlying

**Ms. Menéndez emphasized the importance of local perspectives to better inform the UN's efforts to prevent conflict and stressed that prevention would be impossible without the inclusion of women and youth.**

causes of conflict such as climate change and human rights violations. She outlined key short-

comings of the UN system that must be addressed to fulfil the prevention agenda, including the need to strengthen coordination at the regional level and to adopt a bottom-up approach to prevention. With the

shifting UN structure, Ms. Menéndez emphasized the importance of local perspectives to better inform the UN's efforts to prevent conflict and stressed that prevention would be impossible without the inclusion of women and youth.

QUNO sees great potential in growing and developing this relationship – there is an interest and demand within civil society, especially local actors, for an enhanced relationship with the UN. We were delighted with the positive response from Ms. Menéndez's office to engage more meaningfully with civil society. QUNO stands ready to assist in whatever way possible to nurture and grow this partnership. ❖



## Letter from the Director

Dear Friends:

If current trends persist, by 2030 more than half of the world's poor will be living in countries affected by high levels of violence. Yet resources devoted to peacebuilding and prevention represent only a fraction of those for crisis response, including militarized responses, and reconstruction. Similarly, while the new international frameworks for development, humanitarian action, and peace and security have highlighted the need to focus on peace, justice, and inclusion, actual change is slow.

It is, therefore, heartening to see signs of serious efforts within the UN system toward change, even in the face of an eroding commit-

ment to long-term multilateral approaches to global challenges among governments. The Secretary-General's reforms of the UN system are far-reaching, particularly in the

---

**In 2015, all countries committed to foster peaceful, just, and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence. In July, among the goals to be reviewed are Goal 16, the 'peace goal,' and Goal 10, on reducing inequality. In the fourth year of a fifteen-year program, it will be interesting to see how much progress is being made against these key objectives.**

---

way they seek to streamline analysis and decision-making, and empower a country and regional level of decision-making in a way that has a better chance of aligning the actions of different parts of the UN.

This year brings an interesting

test of one of the core commitments of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (including the Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs). In 2015, all countries committed

to foster peaceful, just, and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence. In July, among the goals to be reviewed are Goal 16, the 'peace goal,' and Goal 10, on reducing inequality. In the fourth year of a fifteen-year program, it will be interesting to see how much progress is being made against these key

objectives.

Thank you for your support and encouragement!



Andrew Tomlinson

---

## Update from our Geneva office

QUNO Geneva has been working on the role Geneva-based institutions can play in supporting implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, adopted by the UN this past December. Laurel Townhead, QUNO's Representative for Human Rights & Refugees, spoke on the subject at the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions' Annual Conference, highlighting the critical role they can play in implementation. She also co-moderated a session of the new UN Migration Network's first consultation with

civil society. Further information on the Global Compact is available in our recently published *Briefing for Friends*, a short guide that also includes suggestions for those interested in supporting the compact with individual and local action.

QUNO is also continuing its work to promote greater integration between peacebuilding and human rights actors on the ground and in the UN system. In April, QUNO's Representative for Peace & Disarmament Florence Foster spoke at an inter-sessional seminar of the HRC on the role of the Universal Periodic

review (UPR) in the prevention of human rights violations and sustaining peace. Florence will also speak on this subject at the [2019 Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development](#) in May.

In March, we welcomed Joachim Monkelbaan to our team as QUNO Representative for Sustainable & Just Economic Systems. Joachim's work will carry forward the evolution of our past work on issues related to trade, development and economic justice, and their links to other QUNO programs. ❖

## Partnering with the UN to strengthen inclusive approaches for peace



Representatives of civil society in Sierra Leone. © UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

By Megan Schmidt, Quaker UN Representative

Central to QUNO's vision is supporting a United Nations "whose policies and practices reflect a diversity of voices" such that the UN can develop and implement inclusive, informed, and contextualized policies that allow people around the world to safely and peacefully achieve their

potential. Across the globe, peacebuilders are often already playing a range of important and impactful roles, including in conflict-affected societies, spanning from providing information and analysis to support early warning measures through to direct contributions to community reconciliation and rehabilitation. By strengthening how the UN works

with civil society and learning from their experiences and expertise, the UN can be made stronger in its pursuits to build peace.

I've been excited to take part in direct efforts that are supporting the UN to move a step closer to QUNO's vision through my par-

---

**Across the globe, peacebuilders are... already playing a range of important and impactful roles...from providing information and analysis to support early warning measures through to direct contributions to community reconciliation and rehabilitation.**

---

ticipation in the development of UN system-wide community engagement guidelines. Recognizing the critical role of civil society and importance of the UN's engagement and partnership with this robust constituency, the Secretary-General, in 2018, called for the development of guidelines for how the UN works with civil society for peacebuilding and sustaining peace. QUNO, along with other civil society partners, is now partnering with UN colleagues

spanning from across the system to conceptualize and develop these guidelines, which are set to be finalized, disseminated, and then put into action beginning this year.

Of central importance for us and our UN and civil society partners is the need for the guidelines to be developed in an inclusive way that hears from civil society on their experiences and challenges, and how they work with and view the UN in their context. We've been excited to have over 250 partners from throughout the world lend their voices and ideas to this process so far through our online survey outreach. Going forward, the next few months will focus on synthesizing the learning from our global partners and working together with the UN team to produce what we hope will be an impactful new tool for the United Nations as it seeks to work in partnership with civil society to build sustainable peace. ❖

---

### United to reform

(Continued from page 1)

process, as well as expectations for opportunities and challenges moving forward.

The reform processes represent a landmark opportunity to unite the UN's three pillars (human rights, development, and peace and security) to be better positioned to effectively deliver results for those most in need. QUNO will continue to engage with the UN to capitalize on the emerging opportunities to reinvigorate the UN's work on sustaining peace and prevention. ❖

## Staff comings and goings



Jędrzej Nowe, Program Assistant. © QUNO

This January we welcomed Jędrzej Nowe to our QUNO team. Originally from Poland, he holds a BA in Psychology from SWPS University in Warsaw, Poland, and a MA in Negotiation and Conflict Resolution from Columbia University in New York. He also completed the Security Governance and Conflict Resolution program at the University of Amsterdam. Jędrzej is particularly interested in peace education and worked with youth in Madagascar and at a Jewish-Arab school in Jerusalem, Israel. His research focused on the impact of empathy and agreeableness in negotiation and on education for coexistence in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. His current areas of interest include the themes of youth, peace and security, mental health of immigrants and refugees (with focus on children and adolescents), and non-

violent communication, as well as the issues of identity politics and free speech. In his free time, Jędrzej can be usually found in movie theatres, concert venues, Broadway theatres, basketball courts, or just wandering around the city – always with his headphones on. He is very excited about putting his theoretical knowledge to practice at QUNO and working with Friends, whose values reflect his own. ♦



### How to Support QUNO

QUNO welcomes donations to help cover the cost of its work. We are happy to accept contributions towards two areas of our work:

*The Fund for Quaker House:* the endowment supports the maintenance and operation of Quaker House.

*QUNO Operating and Program Expenses:* contributions can be made toward the cost of our annual budget.

Please make your check payable to "QUNO." If you'd like your gift to go towards Quaker House, please write "Quaker House" in the memo portion of the check.

For credit card gifts, call toll free 1-888-588-2372 ext.1, or click the "[Donations](#)" button on our web site and follow the instructions provided.

Please send checks to:  
Quaker UN Office  
777 United Nations Plaza,  
5th Floor  
New York, NY 10017

Gifts made to QUNO within the United States are deductible for federal income tax purposes.



## QUNO attends FWCC Section of the Americas Meeting



QUNO's Mireille Evagora-Campbell delivers report to the section meeting during plenary business session. © Eduardo Diaz

QUNO was delighted to attend the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Section of the Americas biannual section meeting in Kansas City from March 21st-24th. The section meeting brought together Friends from across Central, North and South America for four days of communications and consultation, conducted in both English and Spanish languages, around the theme 'Come and See' ('Ven y Ve'). It was a fantastic opportunity to connect with Friends old and new who brought a wide range of Quaker faith practices and backgrounds in small group sessions, plenary meetings for worship, regional meetings, workshops and interest group sessions, and over shared meals.

QUNO was grateful to have the opportunity to report to the entire section on our programs and cur-

rent work and is appreciative of the continued support and encouragement of Friends Yearly Meetings from across the section. QUNO also

attended fascinating sessions on the application of quiet diplomacy methods and processes developed by QUNO and FCNL in dialogues with the Minnesota State Legislature, and on an examination of earthkeeping through the lens of Quaker conviction. It was amazing to work alongside QUNO's committee Co-Clerks Gretchen Castle and Eduardo Diaz and to see them in action. We are thankful for their continued guidance of, and commitment to, QUNO's mission

Thanks and congratulations go to the dedicated FWCC Section of the Americas Central Executive Committee, all of the organisers and group leaders, the tireless team of interpreters, and everyone who contributed to what was a truly constructive and impactful section meeting. ❖



Opening session of FWCC Section of the Americas meeting.

© QUNO