



# Geneva Reporter

## Global Compact for Migration: Adoption is just the beginning

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Laurel Townhead moderates an event during the adoption of the Global Compact for Migration in Marrakech.

*The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration was adopted in Marrakesh on 10 December 2018. QUNO's Laurel Townhead tells us about this landmark agreement, specifically the work that has begun in earnest to put its ambitious guidelines into practice.*

### Do you consider the adoption of the Global Compact a significant achievement?

The Compact is a milestone in global governance of migration because it more clearly brings together existing commitments and clarifies a set of objectives to improve migration management and the treatment of migrants. While we can celebrate this milestone, the adoption of the Compact is not the end of the process, it is just the beginning.

### So what happens next? How are countries beginning to implement these guidelines?

The Compact calls for countries to develop national implementation plans and many States have begun to review their national practice and national priorities as a basis for this. Examples of this from Mexico, the Philippines, Ecuador and others were shared at a Global Forum for Migration and Development workshop in March. The discussion on human rights based implementation of the Global Compact for Migration was a welcome opportunity to hear how the Compact was already being used.

### And what is happening at the international level?

To support countries in their implementation of the Compact and to better coordinate within the United Nations (UN) on migration, the Secretary General created a UN Network on Migration. The Terms of Reference of the Network were agreed in November 2018 and since the start of the year the Network has been developing its workplans and beginning its task of supporting States. Activities so far include the establishment of the Start-Up Fund for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (or Migration MPTF). This fund is intended to focus on supporting those country level projects to implement the Compact that draw on more than one UN agency.

*(continued on page 2)*

## Global Compact for Migration: Adoption is just the beginning (continued)

### How is progress being assessed?

The Compact calls for a quadrennial International Migration Review Forum, the details of which are being negotiated as we speak. This will be interspersed with quadrennial Regional Migration Review Fora, the first round of which are due in 2020. Having focused on implementation, follow up and review during the development of the Compact, the effective functioning of these bodies is a key concern for us. The Compact also requests the Secretary General of the UN to prepare biennial progress reports, which will allow for more frequent discussion of global progress and continuing challenges.

### What work will QUNO be doing during this phase?

Implementation sits primarily at the national level and so we have sought ways to support this despite our global focus. In order to support human rights based implementation of the Compact, we compiled a reference tool containing

existing guidance and recommendations from the Human Rights Council's Special Procedures and from the human rights Treaty Bodies. [Foundations for Implementation](#) was launched in Marrakesh at the conference to adopt the Compact. We also spoke at the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions' annual conference, sharing concrete ideas of how human rights organizations could benefit implementation.

We believe that the UN Migration Network can and should play a critical role in assisting implementation and have worked to support this, including by co-chairing a session of the Network's first open consultation meeting with civil society. We welcome this openness to hear and learn from a range of civil society organisations and look forward to continuing this genuine dialogue as work continues at all levels to turn the Compact from words on paper to real change for the people who need it most.

## Prevention activities for human rights and sustaining peace

In April, QUNO was invited to speak at the first Inter-Sessional Seminar on the Prevention Mandate of the Human Rights Council (HRC). These seminars aim to explore the contribution that the HRC can make to the prevention of human rights violations, including its role in sustaining peace.

We were asked to share [our learning on the role of the Universal Periodic Review](#) (UPR) in preventing human rights violations that if unaddressed could spark violent conflict.

Florence Foster, QUNO's Representative for Peace & Disarmament, grounded her presentation on the premise that, as human rights violations are both the cause and effect of destructive conflict, they play a central role in early warning, prevention of destructive conflict, and in providing the basis for accountability and in rebuilding societies.

Furthermore, the UPR—as a periodic review of all human rights and all UN Member States—is an inclusive and universal platform that lends itself to bridging the areas of human rights and sustaining peace, but few of its reports and recommendations intentionally address this role. Lack of political will, mutual understanding and collaboration across all of the UN's three pillars of development, peace and security, and human rights also continue to undermine the use of UPR reports and recommendations to inform prevention activities.

Florence called for increased participation of peacebuilding actors throughout the UPR process, which would enable

human rights recommendations and implementation activities to intentionally address those grievances that if left unaddressed could lead to violence.

QUNO's long-standing work on the interface between human rights and peacebuilding has grown out of prior work on [natural resources and peacebuilding](#), as well as the specific role of [economic, social and cultural rights in sustaining peace](#). Further information and updates about this area of our work are available at [quno.org/areas-of-work/building-peace](http://quno.org/areas-of-work/building-peace).

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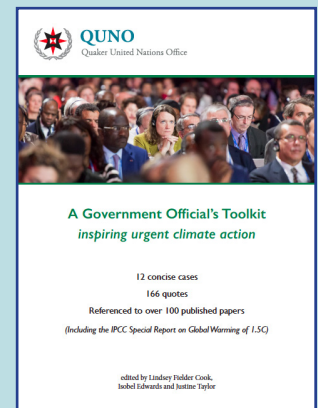
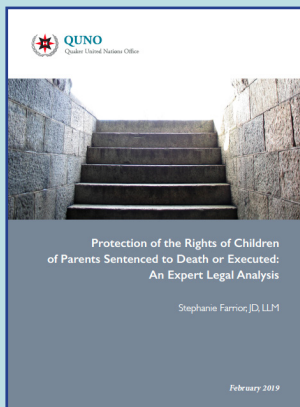
## Recent publications

**Children: unseen victims of the death penalty**  
Briefing tools for practitioners: Defence lawyers, prison staff, sentencers, activists, legislators, media and educators. *QUNO* (June 2019)

**Human Rights Based Climate Action**  
How a rights-based approach to climate policy can lead to more effective and fair climate actions. *Justine Taylor and Lindsey Fielder Cook* (June 2019)

**Protection of the Rights of Children of Parents Sentenced to Death or Executed: An Expert Legal Analysis**  
*Stephanie Farrior* (February 2019)

**A Government Official's Toolkit—Updated edition**  
Inspiring urgent climate action with 12 concise cases. *Edited by Lindsey Fielder Cook, Justine Taylor and Isobel Edwards* (March 2019)



All publications are available at: [quno.org/recent-publications](https://quno.org/recent-publications).

## People and nature centered climate policy

QUNO is working with human rights colleagues and at the international climate change negotiations to better communicate how a rights-based approach to climate policy not only upholds human rights obligations, but also leads to more legitimate, effective, sustainable and fair policies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

A rights-based approach to climate policy, or “action,” integrates rights obligations into policy decisions. Effective rights-based action involves the people who may bear the brunt of policy implementation, leading to greater policy acceptance. Enabling communities to participate without discrimination in the design and implementation of these projects can pre-empt violations which could otherwise delay implementation and frustrate long-term success. Citizens whose lives are affected by climate change policy are more likely to support climate action when rights are promoted, respected and protected.

Countries that adopt constitutional rights to a healthy environment have found real advantages, including access to mitigation approaches that are more cost-effective and more successful environmental records. Any decision maker,

or organization which is carrying out climate projects has the power to take a rights-based approach. A robust impact assessment is the first step in revealing whose rights would need to be taken in to account by any given project, and why. With the correct information, a project can be anchored in and strengthened by the body of relevant international and national law.

A recent example of a rights-based approach, in this case a “just transition,” is the Spanish government negotiating a deal with labour unions on the closure of remaining coal mines. Together they are defining a strategy in which all affected mine workers would experience a fair transition with their income protected, including early retirement, retraining and redundancy payment options. The government also plans to redevelop affected regions.

Enhancing communities’ rights can also have a positive impact on biodiversity and ecosystems. For example, in Nepal, community forests significantly contribute to slowing deforestation. Local communities manage the forest and protect it from encroachment. From 1976 to 2000 the highest net improvement and gain in forest cover occurred in these areas.



## QUNO Q & A with Joachim Monkelbaan



Joachim Monkelbaan

*In QUNO Q&A, we typically feature interviews with alumni about their perspectives and experiences. But for this issue, we spoke with our newest staff member in Geneva, Joachim Monkelbaan, who joined QUNO earlier this year as Representative for Sustainable and Just Economic Systems.*

**Welcome Joachim! You started work about four months ago. What are your first impressions?**

The warm welcome from all colleagues really helped to settle in smoothly. And the advanced level of communication in the office which is based on attentive listening is admirable. I've also been impressed by how positively practitioners in Geneva reacted when I told them I joined QUNO. It is interesting to see how paths (and people) open up once you take a more meaningful and spiritual approach to your daily work.

**That is wonderful to hear. Did you have many expectations of QUNO prior to joining?**

I had always heard people in Geneva speak highly of QUNO, but I was not familiar with QUNO's work in detail prior to applying for the Representative position. However, now that I discover

more about what the work of QUNO is about, it makes total sense to me. I wish I had known more about it earlier. Maybe I also wasn't ready yet to grasp the deeper logic behind QUNO's approach, as the understandings that I needed for that only appeared to me over the past few years.

**How so? Could you elaborate?**

I like that at QUNO we can be honest and even-handed about what is happening in the world—for example, if we are serious about addressing the climate breakdown, there are taboos such as limitless economic growth that we need to put into question. What interested me most about this role was the opportunity to engage with global affairs at such a range of entry points: intellectual, but also spiritual and at the human level. I also appreciate the opportunity that I get to take initiative on issues such as supporting reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO), which is going through a critical phase in its evolution.

**Tell us about your programme, Sustainable & Just Economic Systems. How do you see the work developing?**

First of all, if our goal is to transform economic systems, we need to reframe the economic models and paradigms that underlie such systems at a fundamental level.

Secondly, we need substantive understanding ourselves, but we are not a think tank. We will try to foster the common exploration by diplomats of practical ways forward. To feed that process, we need to look at specific issues such as the elimination of harmful subsidies (for example for large-scale fisheries and fossil fuels), circular economy to reduce plastic waste, and balancing

the responsibilities of corporations and the rights of vulnerable and underrepresented people.

**How does this new role connect to your past work and experience?**

Over the past 15 years, I worked on a range of "tools" that can be used for making our world more sustainable. This ranged from doing research in areas such as trade, climate change, investment, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to founding a training institute for skills related to leadership and systems thinking. What I take from that experience is that we can be most effective when we combine a range of approaches, disciplines, and human competencies in a holistic manner.

**You just had the opportunity to participate in your first QUNO summer school. What did you think?**

The summer school reminded me of the first time that I came to Geneva on a university trip in 2002. That visit made a big impression on me and afterwards, I realize that it played a big role in the unfolding of the path that brought me to QUNO. I could clearly see that the summer school is an opportunity for mutual inspiration between QUNO staff and summer school participants.

**Finally, is there anything else you would like to share with our readers?**

Overall, I am very grateful for the opportunity to contribute to QUNO's work. Serving here is a privilege as it allows me to work on some of the needs of the age that we live in. It is also a pleasant responsibility to represent the Quaker community, and I am always open to suggestions and questions from Friends who read this. So please feel free to contact me any time.