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*António Vitorino Director General of the International Organization for Migration at the opening of the IMRF Multi-Stakeholder Hearing.*

The first International Migration Review Forum (IMRF or Forum) took place in New York in May 2022. As well as reviewing progress on the Global Compact for Migration (Compact), the Forum and its Progress Declaration set the tone and shape the agenda for multilateralism and UN action on migration. **Laurel Townhead**, our Representative for Human Rights & Refugees, tells us what it means for QUNO's work on upholding migrants' dignity and rights.

### *What was the significance of the Forum?*

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The Compact was rejected by a handful of States when it was adopted, so the Forum was a test for acceptance of the Compact, action on it, and the way the UN is working with it. The Forum has a role in outlining an ambitious agenda to deliver on the promise of the Compact – to govern migration in a way that puts people first.

### *Was it a success?*

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Our aim is migration justice; no single UN event can deliver that, but this was a stepping stone towards it. The number of participants and the level at which governments attended showed they took the event seriously. [Over 150 pledges](#) for national action and international cooperation were made ahead of the Forum, indicating that the Forum can drive concrete actions. The Progress Declaration was adopted by consensus, demonstrating the strength of interest in finding multilateral agreement on migration despite substantial differences in position.

It succeeded in demonstrating a commitment to migration multilateralism within the UN and grounded in human rights. To answer if it made progress towards migration justice we need to look at the details including high-level statements that centred on human rights; pledges to end child immigration detention; language in the [Progress Declaration](#) on eliminating systemic racism; a call from migrants for “nothing about migrants without migrants” that was picked up and echoed.

*(continued on page 2)*

### *How did QUNO contribute to its outcomes?*

In line with our ongoing work, our priorities were:

- human rights-based post-COVID migration governance
- ending lethal disregard and border violence
- dismantling systemic racism in migration governance
- addressing and preventing situations of vulnerability
- centring migrant expertise and experience

In preparation we worked with States, in particular, the Compact's Champions; informed NGO engagement including through a series of briefings on [the process](#); engaged with those organizing the Forum; and undertook advocacy through [position papers](#), briefings, dialogues, and language proposals for the Declaration.

At the IMRF, in addition to informal meetings and efforts to support the adoption of the Progress Declaration, I moderated part of the [Multistakeholder Hearing](#) (a day of meetings to hear from civil society, including NGOs, trade unions, and migrants) and QUNO co-sponsored side events on [meaningful migrant participation](#) and [border governance in future health crises](#).

### *What next for QUNO's work on migration justice?*

We are reflecting on progress and assessing our next steps to build on the momentum. This will include staying in the conversation on borders and future health crises; working for action on preventing loss of life on migration routes; linking the language in the Progress Declaration to other activities in the UN on systemic racism, and answering that call from migrants for nothing about them without them.



*Laurel, Human Rights, and Refugees Representative, and Marisa, Program Assistant at the IMRF*

Our recent work has focused on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), where two approval sessions were carried out ahead of the publication of the new Sixth Assessment Report (AR6). The IPCC Assessment Reports are prepared approximately every seven years and involve hundreds of scientists (mostly voluntary) who collate thousands of peer-reviewed papers on the latest climate science. These reports inform governments on what is happening, why, and what can be done to avoid catastrophic global temperature rise. They have legal value.

The AR6 consists of three sections: (1) the Physical Science; (2) Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability, and (3) Mitigation. In February and March, the IPCC met with States to approve the "Summary for Policy Makers" (SPM) of the second and third sections. The SPMs summarize each 1000+ page section for policymakers. Here they are subject to negotiation, as long as the integrity of the scientific findings is not compromised. These IPCC Reports hold our governments to a certain level of accountability. In approving the Reports, Governments have been informed of the catastrophic danger to humanity if we fail to sufficiently and healthily transform those human activities driving climate change.

QUNO acts as an expert reviewer of IPCC draft reports and was present throughout each intensive (13-hour day) two-week approval session. We seek to support IPCC authors and protect the integrity of their scientific findings, and challenge attempts to weaken language on the need for urgent, healthy, and human rights-based climate action in line with a temperature rise limit of 1.5C above preindustrial levels. In total, we made over 60 oral and 11 written interventions.

We seek to protect the inclusion of scientific findings which highlight the critical role of rapid reduction of fossil fuels, rapid increase in renewable (and often decentralized) energy systems, and transformative and just approaches to sustainable agriculture, economic systems, diet, and nature protection and restoration.

Our research reflects how human rights-based approaches in adaptation and mitigation responses lead to more effective, legitimate, and healthy climate action. In accordance with this research, we coordinated with UN Human Rights (OHCHR) staff throughout the meetings to protect or strengthen language on human rights, Indigenous Peoples' Rights, gender, youth, biodiversity protection, just transition, and meaningful public participation in decision making. We also sought to protect and clarify language on rising temperatures as a threat multiplier of conflict.

## Programme Update: Peace & Disarmament

by Maya Street and Florence Foster

As part of our continued work on environmental peacebuilding, QUNO, along with Swedwatch and Frient, [published a paper](#) highlighting how the complementarity of conflict-sensitive and human rights-based approaches to business activities can ensure a people-centered approach and that responses to environmental challenges do not create or exacerbate grievances and conflict. This paper formed part of the compendium to [the White Paper on the Future of Environmental Peacebuilding](#), launched at the [2nd International Environmental Peacebuilding Conference in February](#). At the conference, QUNO hosted a [roundtable](#) on securitization, human rights, and post-COP26, in collaboration with the Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA). David Boyd, the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment, and other speakers highlighted how human rights-based approaches to climate action are imperative to address the root causes of climate change, ensure urgent, fair, and accountable responses to climate change and natural resource management, and avoid securitized policies.

At the 49th Session of the Human Rights Council (HRC), the Peace & Disarmament programme welcomed reports [49/68](#) on [...] prevention and technical assistance and capacity-building, and [49/88](#) on the contribution of all human rights to achieving the purposes and upholding the principles of the UN Charter. As part of our work to enhance complementarity and collaboration between all three UN pillars towards sustaining peace, [we particularly welcomed](#) their emphasis on how the HRC and the broader human rights community can work more effectively and coherently across all UN pillars to sustain peace - including through systematically integrating human rights in UN common analysis and programming, and increasing synergies between UN pillars; and [ensuring human rights are at the centre of a new social contract](#). QUNO Geneva's Director Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge, [delivered a statement](#) to emphasize the impacts of arms proliferation and its harmful role in increasing militarization and perpetuating the use of violence. Her statement welcomed the OHCHR report on the 'impact of the civilian acquisition, possession, and use of firearms by children and youth.' QUNO encouraged States to take preventative measures and address the root causes of armed violence in communities.

Linked to this work on human rights-based approaches to arms control, we continue to support the Business and Human Rights Working Group in their development and implementation of a guidance note for the defense

sector. In March, Florence Foster, Peace & Disarmament Representative, also spoke at [an event at the Council on Christian Approaches to Defence and Disarmament on small arms exports and human rights](#). Florence outlined how human rights approaches can demonstrate the harmful impacts of arms transfers on communities as well as provide avenues for greater engagement for stricter arms control frameworks.

## Programme update: Sustainable & Just Economic Systems

by Nozizwe Madlala Routledge

In *The Triple Paradigm Crisis: Economy, Environment and Security*, Paul Rogers says: "Working towards a more stable and peaceful world is limited by problems within key three areas of human concern, the need for an equitable economic system, the urgent need to respond to climate breakdown and an approach to international security that avoids the common military approach of responding to challenges with early use of force... Responding to these issues requires the vigorous pursuit of alternative paradigms and the impending issue of climate breakdown, in particular, means that such pursuit must be rapid in its effect."

Our work at the WTO has focused on how to take forward these key imperatives. A key highlight is that we leveraged our presence and participation in TESSD discussions to achieve observer status in the WTO's informal dialogue on plastics pollution and environmentally sustainable plastics trade (IDP).

In our efforts to deliver unique and tailor-made interventions at the TESSD and IDP workstreams, we held a brainstorming session with experts in international trade (policy and governance), environmental law, social policy, human rights, and development. This helped us define and prioritize our work towards the 12th Ministerial Meeting at the WTO on 12 – 14th June 2022 and beyond. We have begun to engage with regional bodies and trade blocs from the global South to ensure that our work is relevant to their regions and that it is informed by their lived reality. We are therefore forming targeted partnerships with technical experts and relevant civil society actors, to gather reliable information from these regions and to ensure our briefing papers and quiet diplomacy events are responsive to and informed by these issues on the themes related to a just transition to a circular economy on plastics and ensuring fair and just supply chains.

This work has underlined the relevance of Paul Rogers' triple paradigm crisis: the economy, the environment, and security.

*(continued on page 4)*

## Sustainable & Just Economic Systems (continued)

Similarly, it has enhanced the questions Pamela Haines has raised in the May 2022 edition of the Friends Journal where she says:

*“We value integrity, yet our economic system has no place for conscience. We value simplicity, yet our growth economy requires ever-increasing consumption, stretching the earth’s capacity to the breaking point. We value equality*

*and community, yet we see economic inequality increasing dramatically and poor people, mostly of colour, bearing the burden of climate change. We value good stewardship, yet are running through resources, soil, clean air, and water at an alarming rate. We value peace, yet the violence and devastation caused by our economic system’s exploitation of people and the planet is tragic.”*

## Director letter by Nozizwe Madlala Routledge

We just concluded the 2022 Quaker United Nations Summer School (QUNSS) – which happened virtually for a third year since the onset of COVID. I am pleased to see the diversity in the selection of participants – from East, West, North, and South. I am deeply grateful to our Programme Assistants: Marisa León Gómez Sonet, Andres Naranjo, and Maya Street for the care they took in planning and putting together the programme. Since 1955, the QUNO Summer School has been contributing to the development of young professionals, many of whom have gone on to become leaders of institutions globally.

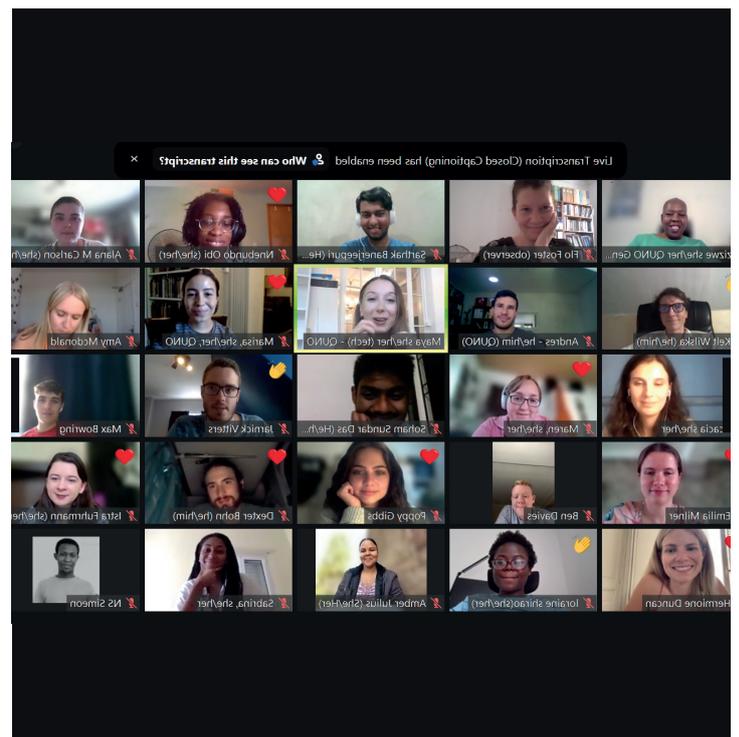
This is my first Geneva Reporter as director of QUNO Geneva. I began my term as director at a time of strict COVID restrictions due to the emergence of the omicron variant. Although the way we live and work has returned to some semblance of the old normal in many countries, we have not yet seen the back of coronavirus.

The World Population Review using the Uppsala Data Programme definition shows a map of the world with twenty countries highlighted as at war in 2022, and 14 of those are in Africa. The map does not yet show the war between Russia and Ukraine. There are also conflicts between and within countries that make the countries dysfunctional such as those resulting from coup d’états, illegal trade, and corruption. At QUNO Geneva, we aim to live simply, peacefully, and with integrity, working to remove the causes and consequences of violent conflict.

When I first travelled to Geneva to speak at the United Nations in the mid-eighties as a young social activist, I had not imagined that I would now return as the first African woman to lead QUNO. Significantly, this transition has been marked by the arrival of my first granddaughter, Lesedi, which means Light,

who was born in February of this year. The reality that when she is my age, it will be nearing the end of the 21st century, gives our work a sense of perspective and urgency in finding alternatives to war and violence and addressing global warming and the increasing levels of inequality through drawing on our Quaker testimonies and processes.

QUNO has a hard-working co-operative team pushing the boundaries in their specific fields with support from QUNC (our governing body) and the wider Quaker community. It is our combined actions at all levels, and working in co-operation with others that will help us realise the historical mission to achieve a more peaceful, sustainable, just, and equal world.



Screenshot of some of the Summer School participants in the closing ceremony

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Visit [quno.org/donate](https://quno.org/donate) and help us continue working to promote peace and justice at the UN and other institutions.

## Recent publications

### [Process and Policy Papers on the International Migration Review Forum \(IMRF\)](#)

### [Sustaining Peace: How can human rights help? 2016 – 2020 retrospective](#) Florence Foster with OHCHR

**QUNO**  
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#### Migration Justice: Delivering on the promise of the Global Compact for Migration

Paper 5: Dismantling systemic racism in migration governance

**Introduction**

The Global Compact for Migration (GCM or the Compact) is a global cooperative framework to improve migration governance. The GCM contains a promise of people-centred and human rights based migration governance. The 2022 International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) will review the implementation of the GCM and will be the first time all States can reflect together on their progress on this promise and on continuing and new challenges. The GCM's guiding principle on a human rights based approach emphasizes non-discrimination, meaning that in addition to actions on Objective 7 (Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration), Objective 16 (to increase the empowerment of migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion) and Objective 17 (Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse) non-discrimination is key to the delivery of the GCM as a whole. Delivering on racial justice is part of delivering on the promise of the GCM and migration justice.

Racism, discrimination and xenophobia are deeply entrenched in migration governance, leading to human rights violations. For instance, choices about who is granted access into a country are connected to ideas of belonging and "otherness" on the basis of prejudice about group identities, particularly race. The IMRF provides an opportunity to bring a racial justice lens to multilateral discussions on migration governance. This racial justice analysis should also be part of national programmes, policies, and procedures to implement the GCM.

As Quakers we are committed to building a world without violence, where dignity and rights are upheld regardless of citizenship status or perceived undesiredness. This paper highlights anti-Black racism in migration governance and provides recommendations to States at the national level. We recognize that migration systems discriminate and are unjust to people at the intersection of multiple identities. However, we think it is important as part of our racial justice analysis to centre the paper on racism against Black migrants. Some United Nations' documents and reports referenced in this paper are specifically focused on people of African descent, however, our focus covers all Black migrants.

**Examples of how racism manifests in migration governance include:**

- Closure of borders and/or travel restrictions affecting predominantly Black majority African countries. This has intensified under the COVID-19 pandemic. The World Health Organization (WHO) denounced countries around the world imposing travel bans against Southern African nations in regards to the ongoing pandemic.<sup>1</sup> The United Nations Network on Migration (UNNM) has also called for any temporary border closure and movement restriction to be implemented in a way that is non-discriminatory and to incorporate protocols to guarantee fundamental rights at all times.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See statement from the World Health Organization here: [WHO stands with African nations and calls for borders to remain open](#)  
<sup>2</sup> [WHO Director-General's Advice](#)  
<sup>3</sup> [UN Network on Migration Official Statement: Forced Returns of Migrants Must be Suspended in Times of COVID-19](#) United Nations Information Service.

**QUNO**  
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**UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS**  
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#### Sustaining Peace: How can human rights help?

2016 – 2020 Retrospective

by Florence Foster  
in collaboration with OHCHR

February 2021

All publications are available at: <https://quno.org/resources>



In the Geneva Reporter Q&A, we often feature interviews with alumni. For this issue, we spoke with Caroline Davey, a Quaker United Nations Summer School (QUNSS) participant from 1978. We spoke with Caroline about her experience as a QUNSS participant and the impact this had on her life and career.

### **1. Could you tell us a bit about yourself and your experience with Quakerism?**

My mum was a Quaker by conviction and through my mum, I was given an introduction to Quakerism. Now I am an attendee and I've taken this with me throughout my life. I've had periods where I've attended regularly and times where I have gone less. However, the pacifist and spiritual elements have stayed with me throughout my life. At my age, even now in my 60s, I am still learning and discovering who I am.

### **2. When did you participate in the Geneva Summer School?**

I was 17, it was 1978 and I had my 18th birthday there. I remember the staff got me a little cake with a candle. I didn't know anyone, but we became so close within the time we were there.

### **3. How and when did you first learn about QUNO and become interested in QUNSS?**

I came to know of QUNO and the QUNSS through my mum. I think she probably saw an advert in *The Friend*. She brought it home and encouraged me to apply. It was competitive and I was surprised to be accepted, but I was so excited about the adventure.

### **4. What are some of the moments/aspects of your experience that you remember the most?**

Definitely the friendships. I had left school at 16 and my mum recognized I left school quickly and she thought it would give me an opportunity to be young. I hadn't really left my 'bubble' or met people from other cultures. When I arrived, there were 17 different nationalities. That for me was really amazing, it took me from beyond my small town to a whole new world. Other memorable experiences were the times when we partied and swam in Lake Geneva.

I also still remember some of the talks we attended. There was a fascinating talk from an interpreter about the faux pas of translating local expressions, I hadn't considered how difficult it was to do this in real-time. Another thing that really struck me was an exhibition about sustainable living. In the 70s it was unusual to see an organization promoting community-led aid. You'd see large INGOs and their usual appeals for sending money, but I remember finding this exhibition so interesting because it was people's own solutions for sustainable living.

Overall, my experience has been with me my whole life. I often bring up a story of something that happened during summer school. It has helped me raise my daughters when they approach me to discuss sustainability and peace. My children are very into global issues such as climate change and peace and my first awareness of these issues was at Summer School.

The sad thing is perhaps we haven't made enough progress. I remember learning about the dreadful inequality across the world and in the 70s it was so rife. We didn't learn about this in school. Now, I hope things will be different.

### **5. What was challenging and what was rewarding about your time at QUNSS?**

The challenge was when I came home, I was completely different. My friends hadn't had that experience and I realized they didn't share the same interests as me. It changed who I mixed with.

### **6. Did your experience influence your future work or life in any tangible way, and if so, how?**

Absolutely. I attended a talk given by QPSW where they spoke of Quaker volunteers. They had one scheme available for young people to go to Austria. I applied and then when I got home, I knew I needed to sort my life out and do something different. Previously I'd been working in a bank but I applied for university to study international relations. I then went to work in a children's home in Austria with QPSW. So definitely – the summer school changed my life!

### **7. Would you recommend summer school to others?**

I definitely would. I'd say pick yourself up out of your comfort zone and go somewhere different. No matter what your experience you'll come definitely back with something!

### **8. If you could describe your experience in one word, what would it be?**

Influential or life-changing.

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If you have taken part in the Summer School and would like to join our new alumni network please email Jez with your participation year at [jsmith@quano.ch](mailto:jsmith@quano.ch).