From the Zoom chat box:

Resources and Questions from Quaker Conversations  
Session 2: Changing the world from the top down, reflections from QUNO NY  

*Online webinar, July 11th, 2020*

We were asked to share the content of the chat. There is no expectation for followup, but it is here for you as a take away.

Learn more about QUNO’s work:

- Quno’s Website: [www.quno.org/tags/new-york](http://www.quno.org/tags/new-york)
- Resources: [www.quno.org/resources](http://www.quno.org/resources)

Please take time to fill out the UN75 survey Andrew discussed at: [https://un75.online/?lang=eng](https://un75.online/?lang=eng)

Additional resource links from Friends:

- [https://sdgs.un.org/goals](https://sdgs.un.org/goals)
- This is a book produced by Canadian Friends Service Committee, written by staff member Matt Legge. A series of Zoom workshops is being given, for which people can sign up: [https://arewedonefighting.com](https://arewedonefighting.com)
- Information for Friends in Africa in follow up to Alfred’s question: [https://paren.org.za/employees/alice-wairimu-nderitu/](https://paren.org.za/employees/alice-wairimu-nderitu/)
Questions from Friends to Andrew Tomlinson, Director of QUNO, NY:

- There was a move to end the veto of the big 5 in the Security Council; has there been any recent progress?
- Andrew, in light of what you mentioned about decreasing space for civil society, can you give an update on current QUNO work around SDG#16?
- Andrew, in light of Ireland's place at the Security Council, is there anything Irish Quakers can do or say to Geraldine Byrne Nason, Ireland's UN Representative?
- Considering the community level scenario and peace building sectors, would QUNO look at the urgency of protecting humans on the mental health issues that are coming up in this Covid environment?
- How can we remove the VETO from the 5 Permanent Members of the Security Council. What can Civil Society do to declare Nuclear Weapon states are run by potential mass murderers?
- Any work out of QUNO NY on People of African Decent, especially the issue of a Permanent Forum? Has the negative impact of COVID globally disproportionately impacting People of African Descent (PAD) positively or negatively impacted work on the Int'l Decade?
- What remedies/ measures are being taken by the UN especially when it comes to climate change (like the one that took place in Mozambique) apart from coming in with health remedies, food aid and shelter?
- The permanent 5 members that still exist are 75 years old and increasingly anachronistic - my 21 year old son was talking about it the other day as one of the reasons he is sceptical about the UN (obviously the permanent council is a small part of the system - it is still the Great Powers System, with at least 2 of the permanent members boxing above their weight (the 2 European ones).
- It is a very different experience in low and middle income countries regarding the binding agreements - South Africa is good at signing up to treaties and conventions but implementation can be nonexistent on many of them despite good intentions.

Feedback and reflections:

- I am very supportive of the UN system and all multinational organs but I am worried, Andrew, regarding so many countries ignoring both their UN and other international commitments or treaties.
- There is that of God in everyone. One thing about what it means to be Quakers is to consider how we might be “rebuiders” from the huge crises in which we are immersed. Chilled by the idea that “covid is a dress rehearsal for dealing with climate catastrophe”. But there is truth in that, I feel it.