



## Quaker United Nations Office

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**FWCC Oral Statement delivered at the 28<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council in response to the Report of the Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment.**

Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers) welcomes the report of the Independent Expert. We are pleased to see the attention given to good practices of all stakeholders – local communities, Indigenous peoples, states and businesses.

FWCC welcomes the Independent Expert's reference to the valuable work carried out by organizations such as Namati, which serves to demonstrate the mutually reinforcing nature of rights-based and peacebuilding approaches. Indeed, procedural rights - to information, public participation, and justice - are vital for the prevention of destructive conflict around natural resources. However, recognition of procedural rights alone will not ensure the effective participation of all stakeholders, especially vulnerable and marginalised groups. Peacebuilding approaches that allow for inclusivity, awareness raising, and capacity building, within affected communities and localities can help to ensure the effectiveness of these rights in practice.

We also value his contribution on obligations relating to the human rights implications of climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, and furthermore support his statement that '*climate change may be the most challenging international environmental threat to human rights*'. This is reflected in stark findings from the 5<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report that the Earth has already warmed .85°C since 1880, and that current and increasing rates of global greenhouse gas emissions would likely increase mean global temperature an additional 4°C by 2081. This rate of temperature rise would destabilize eco-systems and threaten the effective exercise of human rights.

In conclusion, we ask for further elaboration on how '*implementing human rights obligations relating to trans-boundary environmental harm, in particular with regard to the global harm caused by climate change*' could, in turn, strengthen the legal stature of a new international climate change agreement in protecting the environment, and in turn humanity from catastrophic anthropogenic climate change.