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Quaker United Nations Office

The Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)

Summit of the Future Multistakeholder Consultation:

Strengthen international response to complex global shocks through an Emergency Platform

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Thank you Chair, Ambassadors, colleagues,

On behalf of the Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers), thank you for convening today's consultation. We have five points to share drawing upon our research and the publication of our report, *Building Peace in Times of Crisis*. We provide these recommendations to support the creation of an Emergency Platform that will bolster international response to complex global shocks.

- 1. An Emergency Platform must contribute to peace as a global public good.** As the 75th anniversary resolution declares, "to build, keep and sustain peace is now one of the main responsibilities of the UN." Peace must not be lost in the urgency of response. The policy brief does not consider how addressing complex global shocks must also contribute to building peace. The ongoing separation of peacebuilding and emergency response will lessen peace and development gains for people affected by crisis.
- 2. People-centered and rights-based approaches must be at the heart of any response measure.** We welcome the inclusion of "solidarity and equity" as a key principle and an objective. The foundational purpose of an Emergency Platform must be to uphold the rights and protection of those affected, particularly the most vulnerable and marginalized groups, and support the maintenance of peace.
- 3. The experiences of and impact on youth must not be forgotten.** Young people will inherit the consequences of complex global shocks, or the success of early action. The policy brief does not consider youth's meaningful inclusion in decision making and implementation, or the affects global crises have on their rights, including to peace and development. Explicit attention needs to be given to their experiences and knowledge when developing and activating an Emergency Platform.
- 4. Early warning must not be separated from response.** As the brief notes, we must be able to better anticipate complex global shocks. An Emergency Platform must be grounded in existing evidence based early warning and forecasting processes so that any actions taken are based on the best available information and analysis. Additionally, clarity is needed on how the proposed Futures Lab and Strategic Foresight and Global Risk Report will inform effective early action by an Emergency Platform.
- 5. An Emergency Platform must be flexible and agile in learning and adjustment.** Complex global shocks may swiftly deteriorate or require time sensitive action. There is also the potential of unintended impacts despite the best intentions. The Secretary-General must ensure there are real-time opportunities for flexibility and agility in monitoring, assessment and adjustment so the needs of those impacted are truly being met.

We look forward to continuing engagement in the lead up to the Summit of the Future. Thank you.