Dear Friends worldwide,

The Statement below was developed by Quaker Earthcare Witness, the Quaker United Nations Office, and Friends Committee on National Legislation for their joint presence at events during the UN Climate Summit in September 2014.

A number of fellow Quaker organizations wished to add their name, including FWCC, which sent the Statement out to Quaker communities worldwide. As a result, we continue to receive signatures which we add to the Statement, uploading the most recent versions onto the QEW, FCNL and QUNO websites.

The Statement was originally written as a ‘witness’ of our role in anthropogenic climate change. Its aim was to inspire personal and community action; it was not meant to define a universal action, since the situation of Quakers worldwide is not universal. However, QUNO has produced a booklet describing individual Quaker actions, *A Call to Conscience*, which is available on its website, and we encourage you to write if your Meeting commits to community-wide action. We are also helping develop a resource for Quaker action on climate change.

The attached Statement was revised in January 2015 to reflect the following concerns: that it have longer life by being non-date specific to continue its relevance, and that the language be less anthropocentric and more strongly acknowledge the grave dangers we face from climate change. It was revised in August 2015, to add the word ‘anthropogenic’ in clarifying the statement relating greenhouse gas emissions to the combustion of fossil fuels on the second page.

We have attempted to do this, while holding to the core message that Quaker organizations and Meetings have already upheld and signed.

If you wish to add your Meeting to this Statement, please contact Lindsey Cook as suggested at the end of the Statement.

If you do not wish to sign, but wish to use this material as a base for a Meeting-specific Statement, you are most welcome, but please take off the signatures.

In peace and with gratitude,

QEW, QUNO and FCNL

August 2015

Facing the Challenge of Climate Change

A shared statement by Quaker groups

January 2015

*“It would go a long way to caution and direct people in their use of the world, that they were better studied and knowing in the Creation of it. For how could [they] find the confidence to abuse it, while they should see the great Creator stare them in the face, in all and every part of it?”*

*William Penn, 1693*

As Quakers, we are called to work for the peaceable Kingdom of God on the whole Earth, in right sharing with all peoples.[[1]](#footnote-1) We recognize a moral duty to cherish Creation for future generations.

We call on our leaders to make the radical decisions needed to create a fair, sufficient and effective international climate change agreement.

As Quakers, we understand anthropogenic climate change (climate change due to human activities) to be a symptom of a greater challenge: how to live sustainably and justly on this Earth.

We recognize that the current rise of greenhouse gas emissions is leading to an unprecedented rate of increase in global average surface temperature of extreme detriment to the Earth’s ecosystems and species, including human beings.

We recognize that catastrophic global climate change is not inevitable if we choose to act urgently.

We recognize a personal and collective responsibility to ensure that the poorest and most vulnerable peoples now, and all our future generations, do not suffer as a consequence of our actions. We see this as a call to conscience.

We recognize the connections between climate change and global economic injustice as well as unprecedented levels of consumption, and question assumptions of unlimited material growth on a planet with limited natural resources.

We recognize that most anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions are created by fossil fuel combustion. We recognize that our increasing population continues to pursue fossil fuel-dependent economic growth. We recognize that the Earth holds more fossil fuel reserves than are safe to burn, and that the vast majority of fossil fuel reserves must remain in the ground if we are to prevent the catastrophic consequences of climate change. We therefore question profoundly the continued investment in, and subsidizing of, fossil fuel extraction.

We seek to nurture a global human society that prioritizes the well-being of people over profit, and lives in right relationship with our Earth; a peaceful world with fulfilling employment, clean air and water, renewable energy, and healthy thriving communities and ecosystems.

As members of this beautiful human family, we seek meaningful commitments from our leaders and ourselves, to address climate change for our shared future, the Earth and all species, and the generations to come. We see this Earth as a stunning gift that supports life. It is our only home. Let us care for it together.

Quakers in Ghana

Quakers in Britain

Living Witness, UK

EcoQuakers Ireland

Quakers in Australia

Quakers in Denmark

Ireland Yearly Meeting

Norway Yearly Meeting

Quaker Service Australia

Canadian Yearly Meeting

Netherlands Yearly Meeting

Pacific Yearly Meeting, USA

Miami Friends Meeting, USA

Quaker Institute for the Future

Northern Yearly Meeting, USA

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, USA

York Friends Meeting, PA, USA

Memphis Friends Meeting, USA

New York Yearly Meeting, USA

Storrs Friends Meeting, CT, USA

Quaker Concern for Animals, UK

Davis Friends Meeting, CA, USA

Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW)

Newtown Monthly Meeting, USA

Croton Valley Meeting, NY, USA

Valley Friends Meeting, VA, USA

Quakers in Aotearoa New Zealand

FWCC- Asia West Pacific Section

Cookeville Monthly Meeting, USA

Eugene Friends Meeting, OR, USA

Oak Park Friends Meeting, IL, USA

New England Yearly Meeting, USA

Winnipeg Monthly Meeting, Canada

Northside Friends Meeting, IL, USA

Duneland Friends Meeting, IN, USA

Lafayette Friends Meeting, IN, USA

Herndon Friends Meeting, VA, USA

Berkeley Friends Meeting, CA, USA

Princeton Friends Meeting, NJ, USA

Patuxent Friends Meeting, MD, USA

Nashville Friends Meeting, TN, USA

Trenton Meeting of Friends, NJ, USA

Bethesda Friends Meeting, MD, USA

Honolulu Monthly Meeting, HI, USA

Palo Alto Friends Meeting, CA, USA

Abingdon Friends Meeting, VA, USA

Baltimore Yearly Meeting, MD, USA

Frederick Friends Meeting, MD, USA

Humboldt Friends Meeting, CA, USA

Eau Claire Friends Meeting, WI, USA

Annapolis Friends Meeting, MD, USA

Mattaponi Friends Meeting, VA, USA

Santa Fe Monthly Meeting, NM, USA

Rochester Friends Meeting, MN, USA

**Gettysburg Friends Meeting, PA, USA**

Richmond Friends Meeting, VA, USA

Anchorage Friends Meeting, AK, USA

Geneva Monthly Meeting, Switzerland

Westtown Monthly Meeting, PN, USA

Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, UK

University Friends Meeting, WA, USA

Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre, UK

Blacksburg Friends Meeting, VA, USA

Liskeard Local Meeting, Cornwall, UK

Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)

Midlothian Friends Meeting, VA, USA

Jacksonville Friends Meeting, FL, USA

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, OH, USA

Sacramento Friends Meeting, CA, USA

Twin Cities Friends Meeting, MN, USA

Gunpowder Friends Meeting, MD, USA

Homewood Friends Meeting, MD, USA

Haddonfield Monthly Meeting, NJ, USA

Langley Hill Friends Meeting, VA, USA

Chena Ridge Friends Meeting, AK, USA

Maury River Friends Meeting, VA, USA

Salmon Bay Friends Meeting, WA, USA

Belgium & Luxembourg Yearly Meeting

FWCC - Europe and Middle East Section

Northampton Friends Meeting, MA, USA

Prospect Hill Friends Meeting, MN, USA

Little Falls Meeting of Friends, MD, USA

Minneapolis Monthly Meeting, MN, USA

Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting, MD, USA

Monongalia Friends Meeting, WVA, USA

Santa Monica Monthly Meeting, CA, USA

Charlottesville Friends Meeting, VA, USA

Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting, MD, USA

Yellow Springs Friends Meeting, OH, USA

Dunnings Creek Friends Meeting, PA, USA

Whidbey Island Friends Meeting, WA, USA

Yonge Street Monthly Meeting, Ontario, CA

Delta Monthly Meeting, Stockton, CA, USA

Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC)

Edinburgh Universities' Quaker Society, SCT

Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA)

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)

**Quaker City Unity Friends Meeting, NH, USA**

Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting, CA, USA

Société Religieuse des Amis (Quakers), France

Eggemoggin Reach Monthly Meeting, ME, USA

Mid-Ohio Valley Friends Meeting, OH/WV, USA

Baltimore Monthly Meeting, Stony Run, MD, USA

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)

Goose Creek Monthly Meeting of Friends, VA, USA

South Central Yearly Meeting (TX, OK, AR, LA), USA

Please contact Lindsey Cook at lfcook@quno.ch if you need more information, or wish to add your Quaker group.

Latest signature updated: September 2017

1. Kabarak Call to Peace and Eco-Justice, 2012, p. 1 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)