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Quaker United Nations Office

**QUNO New York informal oral remarks on behalf of FWCC
at the joint meeting of ECOSOC and the Peacebuilding Commission
*“Linkages between Climate Change and Challenges to Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace in the Sahel”***

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Many thanks to the Chairs, to the Special Adviser and Mayor Diallo, and thank you for recognizing the request to speak on behalf of the Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers), an organization in general consultative status with ECOSOC – particularly given the absence of the scheduled civil society panelist today.

This morning we have heard a lot about resilience – ways of supporting communities to be more robust in the face of stress. One of the opportunities provided by a discussion like this is the way in which we can bring insights from one silo to another. And what a peacebuilding lens provides here to the climate change discussion is the insight that resilience is also enhanced by accompanying communities and societies in supporting their ability to process and transform climate-related disagreements, disputes and grievances. In this way, part of the support needed is to identify what capacities exist within these communities for dispute resolution and mediation, including the important role of women, and then to provide training and resources to grow those endogenous resources.

For example, and I’m echoing comments made by the representatives from Chad and Kenya, just think of what this means in the case of disputes between pastoralists and agriculturalists. Now, such disputes have been going on in the Sahel for generations, and peacemaking and dispute resolution mechanisms are part of the traditional landscape. But our understanding is that these structures and mechanisms are challenged by the sheer scale of what is going on now and deserve our support.

My broader point here is to encourage us all to think creatively about the ways in which these topics of peacebuilding and climate change can inform one another. Climate change may be a ‘threat multiplier’, but the response can go beyond environmental adaptation to include actions that serve to strengthen the social fabric of the affected communities.

Our question to the panelists is, how might the UN help support and resource these endogenous capacities for dispute resolution, as part of its work on building resilience in communities affected by climate change?

Thank you.