

FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION (QUAKERS)

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FWCC Oral Statement to be delivered at the 43rd session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment

Friends World Committee for Consultation, Quakers, recognises the meticulous work over the years by the Special Rapporteurs on Human Rights and the Environment, to show how human rights are seriously affected by a degraded environment,

and to show how integrating a rights-based approach to local, national and international environment(al) policy promotes, to quote, "policy coherence, legitimacy and sustainable outcomes". This is critical to earning citizens' trust, participation, and support in the transformation from a destructive to a healthy human family.

Today, as we receive the Special Rapporteur's excellent reports, we learn of the profound benefits to human rights and to the stability of our countries, when a right to a healthy environment is protected.

The existence of hundreds of thousands of species, including the human race, is today threatened by unprecedented rates of rising global temperatures, ocean acidification and deoxygenation, soil degradation, and chemical pollution. These are rooted in human activities that, with urgent and sufficient political will, can be transformed.

Our time to act is limited. The Human Rights Council can make an historic contribution by adopting a resolution recognizing the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

We ask the Special Rapporteur: *"Environmental degradation does not affect everyone equally. How does recognition of the right to a healthy environment help the people who are most vulnerable to environmental discrimination and harm?"*

ENDS

Delivered by Detmer Kremer