



Quaker United Nations Office

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

Item 5 General Debate

Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers) welcomes this opportunity to congratulate the rapporteurs for their report on the Council's Prevention Mandate.

As human rights violations are often the root cause and consequence of destructive conflict, we were pleased that resolution 38/18 specifically requested the rapporteurs to consider how the Council can work effectively with all pillars of the UN towards sustaining peace. This message was echoed by the Secretary General's recent Call to Action, which highlighted the protection of human rights as essential to crisis prevention.

We welcome in particular the invitation for more prevention-oriented action by the Council through the inclusion of a wider range of stakeholders, such as peacebuilders and parliamentarians. The recommendations to imbue Special Procedures with a stronger prevention lens and for investigative bodies to include risk-factor analyses, are valuable developments to that end. In light of the new terms of reference and status of the Resident Coordinators – which we see as pivotal to uphold the UN Charter on the ground - the recommendation to systematically involve them in Council discussions is also highly valuable. Importantly, the report's suggestions on strong collaboration between the Council and Peacebuilding Architecture, and in particular the Commission, are welcome steps. With the Peacebuilding Architecture Review underway, 2020 provides an opportunity to continue realising these changes.

We therefore urge the Council and Member States to take forward these recommendations and encourage the President of the Human Rights Council to share this report officially with the Secretary General and relevant bodies, the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council, and the Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission, for their consideration.

ENDS

Delivered by Florence Foster, Representative (Peace & Disarmament)