

FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION (QUAKERS)

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**FWCC Oral Statement to be delivered at the 46th session of the Human Rights Council
Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment**

Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers) thanks the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment for his excellent reports on water and biodiversity.

We value the emphasis on addressing the water crisis to reduce inequality and to restore the natural world. We uphold findings to avoid the privatization and commodification of water. We appreciate frameworks to incorporate rights into water policy, and examples of how rights-based approaches enable just transitions, protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and reduce potential violent conflict in facing water scarcity.

We value conclusions supporting transformative changes away from the current exploitative relationship with nature that devastates human rights and threatens our and other species' extinction. Both reports outline how protecting human rights, and applying rights-based approaches, can transform this destructive path and accelerate environmental action, safeguard nature, and distribute the benefits of nature equitably.

The Human Rights Council has an historic chance to recognise a universal right to a healthy environment. Global environmental collapse was not imagined by authors of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Yet today such collapse is a reality. It is an obligation for States and the UN to protect and care for the planet and our present and future generations.

We ask the Special Rapporteur: *Nature is a community of which we are all part. How can the Human Rights Council strengthen its contribution to protecting both human rights and the natural world and uphold the rights of the most marginalized and vulnerable?*