**FWCC Oral Statement for 50th Session of the Human Rights Council**

**Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on human rights of migrants**

Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers) thanks the Special Rapporteur for his report.

Once again, the report is hard reading because of the scale and severity of human rights violations documented.

How should the Council respond to the widespread disregard for the rights, wellbeing and life of migrants that you and others so clearly report?

With firm reiteration that borders are not zones of exclusion for human rights obligations and that seeking to cross borders does not exempt people from human rights protection.

With clear commitment from States to work with OHCHR's Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights at International Borders [including through use of OHCHR and the Office of Counter-Terrorism’s Human Rights at International Borders: A Trainer’s Guide].

With determination to strengthen independent monitoring at borders, which you have called for, and to assess the need for an international monitoring mechanism. A next step could be an expert workshop to highlight good practice in human rights monitoring at borders, draw further attention to challenges and make recommendations for national, regional and global action – including what more this Council could be doing.

Despite a reaffirmation by States in the International Migration Review Forum Progress Declaration of their collective responsibility to preserve the lives of all migrants and take action to prevent loss of migrant lives, you report continued unwillingness on the part of many States to respond to reports, recommendations and rulings. We believe that a High Level Panel on Preventing Deaths in Transit is needed to engage political will to live up to these words and fulfil existing obligations.

Special Rapporteur what steps do you think this Council and other parts of the UN should take to respond to this ongoing pattern of violations and impunity?

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