



FWCC Oral Statement to be delivered at the 51st Session of the Human Rights Council

Item 3 General Debate

Quakers appreciate this opportunity to speak under Item 3.

We would like to welcome report 51/15 on the diversion of arms and unregulated or illicit arms transfers and its reference to the Information Note by the Working Group on Business and Human rights on responsible business conduct of the arms industry.

Importantly, it highlights the need for states to introduce mandatory enhanced Human Rights Due Diligence obligations for the arms sector, and for those businesses to implement such processes throughout **all** aspects of their business operations. We would however call for a broader understanding of arms related risks and impacts on human rights – as **all** weapons have an impact on human rights, not only those diverted or illicitly transferred.

We regret that it was again impossible to schedule a briefing by the Peacebuilding Commission Chair to the HRC. It remains critical to explore ways for the HRC to work more effectively and coherently across **all** pillars of the UN to sustain peace in the context of the contemporary challenges we face. There is real opportunity in such an exchange between these two bodies to learn from each other's experience as forums that seek to address these challenges, strengthen their respective bridging roles and continue to identify mutual opportunities to address cross-cutting issues from a prevention perspective.

We call on member states of the HRC and PBC to continue to work together to develop opportunities for *further exchange and dialogue* AND to work towards enabling this annual briefing.

ENDS

Delivered by Sabrina Mignone, Programme Assistant (Peace & Disarmament)