

FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION (QUAKERS)

www.quno.org



Quaker United Nations Office

Avenue du Mervelet 13
CH-1209 Geneva, Switzerland

Tel +41 (22) 748 4800

Fax +41 (22) 748 4819

Email lfcook@quno.ch

**FWCC Oral Statement to be delivered at the 52nd session of the Human Rights Council
Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment**

Friends World Consultation Committee (Quakers) thanks the Special Rapporteur for his excellent reports on environmental conservation in pandemic prevention, and women, girls, and the right to a healthy environment.

We uphold ever-increasing research that human rights-based approaches are essential for effective, legitimate and sustainable accelerated action to protect the environment and biodiversity and thus reduce the risk of future pandemics. We value the conclusion that pandemic prevention is more equitable and just than preparedness and response.

We uphold the report's conclusion that COVID has widened socio-economic gender gaps and appreciate the acknowledgment that harmful gender norms and biases prevent women and girls from fairly enjoying nature's benefits and contribute to disproportionate climate impacts.

Both reports outline how unsustainable lifestyles and unjust economic systems drive environmental degradation and threaten the enjoyment of human rights. We uphold the conclusion that discrimination and unsustainability are intertwined to the degree that only rights-based, systemic, and transformative changes can achieve a future where everyone enjoys the right to a healthy environment.

It is imperative for States and the UN to recognize that a multiplicity of human rights are safeguarded when we as humanity care for the planet's health as well.

We ask the Special Rapporteur; what role can the HRC play in strengthening recognition by States of the inextricable linkage between human rights and the protection of the natural world?