



**FWCC Oral Statement to be delivered at the 53<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**

**Item 3 Interactive Dialogue**

Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers) appreciates this opportunity to welcome report 53/48 on casualty recording and would like to highlight its relation to report 53/49 on the impact of civilian acquisition, possession and use of firearms and its sister report on arms transfer 51/15. We commend the work of this Council and its mechanisms in highlighting arms related risks to human rights.

These reports highlight the importance of access to information and public participation with regards to weapons governance and decision-making.

Together they help better understand the supply and demand side of weapons and the role of conventional arms in driving the escalation of armed violence or of conflict. They therefore help foster prevention and protection across contexts and at multiple levels by highlighting the root causes of violence and the widespread availability of these weapons.

Furthermore, we commend the work of the Council in outlining key governance gaps – including by continuing to highlight the need for businesses – including the arms sector - to fulfil their human rights responsibilities by conducting human rights due diligence to identify, prevent, mitigate and account for how they address their adverse human rights impacts as per report 53/49. Finally, we welcome the call upon States to ensure that casualty recording systems are in place and report publicly, ensuring evidence-based decisions and policies are in place to protect, respect and fulfil human rights resulting from hostilities or violence and their circumstances.

[In light of this – what role for the further recording of the *tools* of violence in this work, to better understand the respective obligations and responsibilities of *all* stakeholders? **added orally**]

We look forward to continuing supporting the Council in those regards.

\*ENDS\*

Delivered by Florence Foster, Representative (Peace & Disarmament)