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### Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)

Interventions made during the 58<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) by Lindsey Fielder Cook, QUNO Representative for the Human Impacts of Climate Change (HICC), and Alana M Carlson, HICC Programme Assistant, on behalf of FWCC.

**13 March – 19 March 2023**

This meeting oversaw the approval of the **Summary for Policy Makers (SPM)** for the **Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) Synthesis Report**. The IPCC was created in 1988 with the responsibility to collate peer-reviewed climate science worldwide and to inform governments of the latest climate science findings. It received the Nobel Peace Prize shared with former USA Vice President Al Gore in 1997. The IPCC mandate is to provide ‘policy relevant but not policy prescriptive’ information. Use of their reports is increasing amongst people to hold their governments accountable for sufficient climate action.

Each assessment cycle lasts approximately 7 years and involves 100s of scientists worldwide working voluntarily to collate 1000s of peer reviewed papers. Only the (small) IPCC Secretariat and Technical Support Units receive salaries. This 6<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report includes the three sections - **Physical Science, Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, Mitigation of Climate Change** – and a final **Synthesis Report**.

The **Summary for Policy Makers (SPM)** is subject to an approval process with Member States; it is therefore exposed to political influence. IPCC science authors can refuse to integrate Member State suggestions if they mislead or compromise ‘the integrity of the science’. As observers in this approval process, we seek to uphold transparency and the integrity of the science, encourage clear messaging on urgent, transformative, and rights-based climate action, and ensure clear messaging on the risks of some climate policies/technologies that would delay urgent action and pose new, novel risks.

FWCC is the only active, independently accredited faith-based organization at the IPCC. Until recently, we were only one of the few observers who gave interventions. Recently, more civil society organizations have sought accreditation and we now mentor new voices in this process.

The approval session went 48 hours over schedule, the last 24 hours with minimal breaks for eating and no sleep. During the seven days, QUNO made **24 Oral** interventions on

behalf of FWCC, including a closing statement which can be viewed [here](#). Most of these comments were reflected and attributed to FWCC in the [Earth News Bulletin](#), which summarizes the IPCC meetings for governments and civil society.

Below, in **bold**, are the FWCC interventions coupled with the paragraph in question (A, B or C sections), and the response from the IPCC Chair and authors. The SPM is debated sentence by sentence; observers can speak after all States have given input, and then authors return with a suggestion to change or keep the language. On the first day, the Chair failed to call on any observers until before closing. A representative with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights queried the failure to follow IPCC procedure for observers. Observers were then called upon.

#### QUNO Interventions, 13-19 March

- 1. A.1.3 Original sentence, at risk of being deleted:** In 2019, atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations (410 parts per million) were higher than at any time in at least 2 million years (*high confidence*), and concentrations of methane (1866 parts per billion) and nitrous oxide (332 parts per billion) were higher than at any time in at least 800,000 years (*very high confidence*).

*Thank you Co-Chair – as this is the first time FWCC, or simply ‘Quakers’, have spoken, and we wish to express our appreciation to you, the IPCC Secretariat, IPCC Co-chairs, Technical Support Units and authors for all their dedicated work, and the government of Switzerland for hosting this meeting. I speak as civil society, and in communicating IPCC science to the wider world. We see this sentence as critical policy relevant information for our decision makers to understand the gravity of the situation facing humanity.*

**Response:** several States follow with similar concerns. The sentence is reinserted.

- 2. A.1.4 Original Sentence:** In 2019, approximately 79% of global GHG emissions came from the sectors of energy, industry, transport and buildings together and 22% from agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU).

*Thank you chair, we wish to reflect two interventions made earlier today, concerning the under-reporting of military emissions. This sentence gives a helpful list of global activity levels in different sectors. It is important for policy makers to know that, while significant (estimated at 5% of global emissions), most emissions from the military are not reported by countries and therefore not included in this report’s modelling. Recognising the lack of military emission inclusions could be done simply in a footnote alongside that notes other CO<sub>2</sub> or wider GHG emission activities not included here.*

**Response:** No response from authors.

- 3. B.3.3 Original Sentence:** There is *medium confidence* that the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation will not collapse abruptly before 2100, but if it were to occur,

it would *very likely* cause abrupt shifts in regional weather patterns, and large impacts on ecosystems and human activities.

***Thank you Chair, I have a question for the IPCC authors. In view of the enormity of what we are talking about, is it possible for authors to expand this sentence on what will likely happen after 2100, to help policy makers in their countries to prepare?***

***Response:*** Authors explain that abrupt collapse is not time sensitive. It could happen now, it could happen after 2100 – the AMOC is in decline but abrupt collapse, if it were to occur, is not subject to time.

4. **A.2.2 Sentence:** Between 2010 and 2020, human mortality from floods, droughts and storms was 15 times higher in highly vulnerable regions, compared to regions with very low vulnerability. (*high confidence*) {2.1.2} (Figure SPM.1)

***Thank you Chair, this is a very important sentence. We understand that human mortality was 15 times higher in highly vulnerable regions, however we lack context of the approximate total number of human deaths from floods, droughts and storms from 2010-2020. Could the authors offer an approximate number of human lives lost in this period to floods, droughts and storms? It would be helpful for policy makers and the wider public to better understand the mortalities that have happened in this period.***

***Response:*** Authors explain that these statistics come from site specific events, where intensification represents regional experiences. They do not have mortality figures for this statistic. However, the authors consider the most important message in this paragraph is about the global vulnerability number – ...*Approximately 3.3–3.6 billion people live in contexts that are highly vulnerable to climate change. Human and ecosystem vulnerability are interdependent.*”

5. **A.1.5 Original sentence:** ‘*Human cause climate change is a consequence of more than a century of net GHG emissions from unsustainable energy use, land use and land use change, lifestyle and patterns of consumption and production.*’

***Thank you Chair – Chair, yesterday Belize raised the importance of grounding the headline statement in the underlying text, as was in the previous draft. We see A.1.5 as an excellent place to reinsert high confidence language from the previous draft specifically from previous draft A.1.2.:***

***‘Human cause climate change is a consequence of more than a century of net GHG emissions from unsustainable energy use, land use and land use change, lifestyle and patterns of consumption and production.’***

***Chair, this grounding is highly relevant, high confidence and a policy relevant intervention in support of the headline statement. Without this grounding, the Synthesis Report is in danger of avoiding clear language on critical scientific findings. We hope our governments in this room will encourage this insertion move as well.***

*Response: Despite concerns, the finding as quoted above remained in the headline statement, and also repeated in paragraph, while global consumption levels remained in the underlying text of A.1.5*

6. **C.1.2** – see quote below, taken out of the floor draft.

*Thank you Chair*

*We thank our Member State colleagues in the room who are asking for C12 to open with the previous draft sentence. C.1.2 had one of the most inspiring findings, at high confidence, to communicate and empower both policy makers and the public. Specifically - ‘urgent, feasible, and equitable near term options are available at scale to address climate change and improve human well being.’*

*We are thankful for many States’ calls strengthen language in this paragraph on equity and social justice, rights of Indigenous Peoples – all of which are rights-based approaches that lead to more effective, fair and successful climate action.*

*Chair, the AR6 seeks to inspire solutions. The people of this world need hope. C.1.2 needs to reground this language that urgent, feasible, equitable and near term options are available to scale NOW that improve human wellbeing and planetary health. NOW, in addition to later in C4. We encourage IPCC authors to seek, and Member states in the room to support, a way to open C12 that bring HOPE now.*

*Response: we met with a range of countries, primarily but not solely EU (+UK) who understood the concern and pushed for the sentence to be returned. The Chair called for a contact group to debate and after several lengthy meetings, the sentence remained cut. While the overall paragraph was strengthened within to stress the role of justice, equity, and civil society engagement, it still has lacked the incredibly positive message in the earlier draft. A similar, but not exact, version can be quoted from section 3.4.2 of the Long Report.*

7. **C.4.2 – original sentence:** Many mitigation and adaptation actions have multiple synergies with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and sustainable development generally, but some options can also have trade-offs. Potential synergies exceed potential trade-offs (*high confidence*). Synergies and trade-offs depend on the pace and magnitude of change and the development context (*high confidence*). Trade-offs can be evaluated and minimised by giving emphasis to capacity building, finance, governance, technology transfer, investments, development, context specific gender-based and other social equity considerations with meaningful participation of local communities, Indigenous Peoples and vulnerable populations (*high confidence*).

*Thank you Chair, we very much appreciate the many countries which have emphasized the multiple synergies, even offering the word ‘substantive’. The multiple synergies also include the ‘how’ we approach the climate action. As OHCHR just stated, the how is*

*grounded in the high confidence finding in WG2 D.1.3 – specifically - **Integrated and inclusive system-oriented solutions based on equity and social and climate justice reduce risks and enable climate resilient development (high confidence)** – and we would encourage this to be included.*

*Response: climate justice is included in this section following contact group debates.*

8. **C.5.2 Original sentence:** Adaptation and mitigation actions, that prioritise equity, social justice and inclusivity, lead to more sustainable outcomes, reduce trade-offs, support transformative change and advance climate resilient development.

*Thank you Chair, we very much appreciate calls to include rights-based approaches, which is included twice in the WG2 SPM and is key to ensuring more successful and fair climate action. We also hope that climate justice can be included in this SPM. The term climate justice is mentioned FIVE times in the Long Report but does not appear ONCE in the SPM.*

*Response: following Member States engaging in a contact group on this section, ‘climate justice’ is included in the C Headline statement, as well as in C.4.2. In addition, ‘rights-based approaches’ enters a number of times in both the SPM and the Long Report.*

9. **C.5.3 Original Sentence:** Increased financing for modern clean energy and climate actions can also help leapfrog renewable energy access for underserved populations and vulnerable communities.

*Thank you Chair, from an ethical perspective we deeply appreciate this paragraph. Deeply appreciate calls for capacity building. And the very important sentence on renewable energy access for underserved populations and vulnerable communities – quick question for the IPCC authors – does this also relate to the benefits of decentralized renewable energy ownership for these communities – if so, would this be helpful to mention that here or in another space?*

*Response: no response from authors*

10. **B.1.3 Original sentence:** In scenarios with increasing CO2 emissions, natural land and ocean carbon sinks are projected to take up a decreasing proportion of these emissions (*high confidence*).

*Thank you Chair, could this sentence better reflect for policy makers that as emissions rise, land can shift from sink to source. This was communicated in the Special Report on Climate Change and Land and is a critical message for policy makers to understand.*

*Response: no response from authors*

11. **A.2.3 Original sentence:** Impacts on some ecosystems are approaching irreversibility such as the impacts of hydrological changes resulting from the retreat of

glaciers, or the changes in some mountain (*medium confidence*) and Arctic ecosystems driven by permafrost thaw (*high confidence*).

**Thank you Chair, wondering if this last sentence could finish with ‘and human communities’.**

**Response:** *no response from authors*

**12. A.3.4 Original Sentence:** Adaptation does not prevent all losses and damages (*high confidence*)

**Thank you Chair, in addition to appreciating the rights language just suggested, we speak to the last sentence in the A.3.4. We appreciate this paragraph covers experiences of both people and nature. We ask the authors if the last sentence could therefore end more clearly for policy makers - being ‘Adaptation does not prevent all losses and damage to people and nature’.**

**Response:** *this is actually covered in A.2.2*

**13. C.7.6 Original sentence:** International cooperation, transnational partnerships and environmental and sectoral agreements, institutions and initiatives can also stimulate domestic policy development, low-emissions technology diffusion and emission reductions, though uncertainties remain over their costs, feasibility, and effectiveness (*medium confidence*).

**Thank you Chair, in communicating the science, we really appreciate Member States raising concern over the last clause of this sentence, as in English, ‘their’ seems to refer to ‘low emissions technology’ as uncertain, rather than transnational partnerships. Restructuring the sentence would clarify the message, and it would also enable us to honor our Ukrainian colleague’s hope that we finish this report with a positive message. Therefore, on a communications level, we hope the authors can consider restructuring of the sentence to avoid misunderstanding and to end with an uplifting message.**

**Response:** *enough countries call for clarification change - sentence restructured to read: “Transnational partnerships can stimulate policy development, technology diffusion, adaptation and mitigation, though uncertainties remain over their costs, feasibility and effectiveness (*medium confidence*). International environmental and sectoral agreements, institutions and initiatives are helping, and in some cases may help, to stimulate low GHG emissions investments and reduce emissions (*medium confidence*).”*

**14. B.2.2 Original sentence:** Compared to the AR5, global aggregated risk levels (Reasons for Concern) are assessed to become high to very high at lower levels of global warming due to recent evidence of observed impacts, improved process understanding, and new knowledge on exposure and vulnerability of human and natural systems, including limits to adaptation (*high confidence*).

*Thank you Chair, we very much appreciate the suggestion by colleagues in the room to bring in more detail on species extinction loss. This kind of detail is very important for the wider public to understand what is at stake with delayed action, and why urgent action is so critical to avoid catastrophic loss of life.*

*Response: language strengthened to include 'losses and damages', specifically: "Risks and projected adverse impacts and related losses and damages from climate change will escalate 18 with every increment of global warming (very high confidence). They are higher for global warming of 1.5°C than at present, and even higher at 2°C (high confidence)."*

- 15. B.7.1 Original sentence:** Only a small number of the most ambitious global modelled pathways limit global warming to 1.5°C (>50%) by 2100 without exceeding this level temporarily. Achieving and sustaining net negative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions globally, with annual rates of CDR greater than residual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, would gradually reduce the warming level again (*high confidence*). Adverse impacts that occur during this period of overshoot and cause additional warming via feedback mechanisms such as permafrost thawing, weakening natural land carbon sinks and increasing releases of GHGs would make the return more challenging (*medium confidence*).

*In addition to CIEL concerns on Carbon Dioxide Reliance, what is missing here, but was so clear in the Special Report for Global Warming 1.5C, is the clear message for policy makers that we need deep and rapid reductions of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions alongside other GHG emissions. Not having this message clear in the sentence is very strange, we are missing one of the main messages linked to our chances to hold to 1.5C or with very limited overshoot.*

*Response: point ignored.*

- 16. B.7.1 – same sentence as above**

*Thank you Chair, appreciating the calls for more examples of what we mean by increasing releases of GHG emissions, wildfires, etc. Sometimes we make assumptions that policy makers understand what we are talking about, but we here in this room understand so much more than the readers, and words bringing visual examples, even connecting that permafrost releases more GHG emissions, is important.*

*Response to both: language of ,weakening natural sinks' is expanded, specifically: Adverse impacts that occur during this period of overshoot and cause additional warming via feedback mechanisms, such as increased wildfires, mass mortality of trees, drying of peatlands, and permafrost thawing, weakening natural land carbon sinks and increasing releases of GHGs would make the return more challenging (*medium confidence*).*

- 17. B.7.2 Original sentence:** The higher the magnitude and the longer the duration of overshoot, the more ecosystems and societies are exposed to greater and more widespread changes in climatic impact-drivers, increasing risks for many natural and human systems. Compared to pathways without overshoot, societies would face

higher risks to infrastructure, low-lying coastal settlements, and associated livelihoods.

***Thank you Chair, a question for clarification for the authors. Does ‘associated livelihoods’ include deaths, as overshoot would result in more people dying, and wondering where language is on increased morbidity and mortality is related to overshoot?***

***Response: no noted response***

**18. B.7.3 Original sentence:** Transitioning towards net zero CO2 emissions faster and reducing non-CO2 emissions such as methane more rapidly would limit peak warming levels and reduce the requirement for net negative CO2 emissions, thereby reducing feasibility concerns, and social and environmental risks associated with CDR deployment at very large scales (*high confidence*).

***Thank you Chair, on the concerns raised over the use of ‘very’ in this sentence, we are doing a find check on Working Group III related to CDR, and we find no line of sight, instead, all CDR risks and concerns relate to ‘large scale’. The phrase ‘very large scale’ is not linked to CDR, but to a few other issues, but not CDR and this is misleading.***

***Response:*** the word ,’very’ is taken out, and the sentence reads, ‘social and environmental risks associated with CDR deployment at large scales’.

**19. C.3.4 Original sentence:** Key adaptation and mitigation elements in cities include considering climate change impacts and risks in the design and planning of settlements and infrastructure; land use planning to achieve compact urban form, co-location of jobs and housing; supporting public transport and active mobility (e.g., walking and cycling); the efficient design, construction and use of buildings; and electrification in combination with low emissions sources (*high confidence*).

***Thank you Chair, thank you authors, and thank you member states for the suggestions just being encouraged, in particular on ‘sufficiency’ and ‘reducing material consumption’. The latest findings in WGIII on ‘sufficiency’ were a profound contribution and deeply policy relevant. As communicators of the latest science, we were also concerned that the important work on ‘sufficiency’ is completely missing in the Synthesis Report, and reduction of consumption language is weak. We hope authors can find a way to integrate this.***

***Response:*** In addition to including ‘reducing and changing energy and material consumption, material substitution’ – the sentence brings in ‘sufficiency’ and creates a footnote to ensure clear definition, specifically: *Key adaptation and mitigation elements in cities include considering climate change impacts and risks (e.g. through climate services) in the design and planning of settlements and infrastructure; land use planning to achieve compact urban form, co-location of jobs and housing; supporting public transport and active mobility (e.g., walking and cycling); the efficient design, construction, retrofit, and use of buildings;*



*reducing and changing energy and material consumption; sufficiency; material substitution; and electrification in combination with low emissions sources (high confidence).”*

Footnote: Sufficiency - A set of measures and daily practices that avoid demand for energy, materials, land, and water while delivering human well-being for all within planetary boundaries.

**20. C.2.2 Original sentence:** Challenges from delayed mitigation actions include the risk of cost escalation, lock-in of infrastructure, stranded assets, and reduced feasibility and effectiveness of adaptation and mitigation options (*high confidence*).

*Thank you chair. Would the authors see this space as important to include recognition of increased risk to societal instability - or human system instability - in relation to delayed action.*

*Response: none – sentence put earlier in the paragraph, and a list of vulnerable regions is extended.*

### **21. C.2.3 and C.2.5**

- a. **Original sentence C.2.3:** Accelerated climate action can also provide co-benefits (see also C.4). Many mitigation actions would have benefits for health through lower air pollution, enhanced mobility, and shifts to healthy diets.
- b. **Original sentence C.2.5:** Ambitious mitigation actions imply disruptive changes in existing economic structures, with significant distributional consequences.

*Thank you chair and thank you to Member States who have raised calls on diet language consistent throughout the report - plant-based, or balanced, sustainable and healthy diets to give clarity to policy makers.*

*Also, with C.2.5, on accelerated mitigation we share the concern over disruptive language, as there are also positive economic benefits such as greater income equality through decentralized renewable energy ownership.*

*Response: C.2.3 – paragraph strengthened on the benefits of dietary change - Accelerated climate action can also provide co-benefits (see also C.4). Many mitigation actions would have benefits for health through lower air pollution, active mobility (e.g., walking, cycling), and shifts to sustainable healthy diets. Strong, rapid and sustained reductions in methane emissions can limit near-term warming and improve air quality by reducing global surface ozone. (*high confidence*) Adaptation can generate multiple additional benefits such as improving agricultural productivity, innovation, health and wellbeing, food security, livelihood, and biodiversity conservation (*very high confidence*).*

*Response to C.2.5 – sentence to add ‘sometimes’ Ambitious mitigation pathways imply large and sometimes disruptive changes in existing economic structures, with significant distributional consequences within and between countries.*

**22. B.6.3 Original sentence:** Global modelled mitigation pathways reaching net zero CO<sub>2</sub> and GHG emissions include transitioning from fossil fuels without carbon capture and storage (CCS) to very low- or zero-carbon energy sources, demand side measures and improving efficiency, reducing non-CO<sub>2</sub> GHG emissions, and CDR.

*We are thankful for this suggestion to ensure WG3 language on CCS challenges is in the Synthesis Report. This is of great concern as NOWHERE in the Synthesis Report do we read of challenges to implementing effective carbon capture storage implementation. We hope the language that Germany proposed from the WG3 is included. Chair, as the scientific body, we have the responsibility to ensure both challenges and benefit facing implementation are clear to inform decision makers. We have the responsibility in this room to protect the integrity of the science.*

**Response:** *we are not alone in raising this concern. In response, an extensive footnote is included, plus another one on CDR, to highlight risks, specifically:* The technical geological storage capacity is estimated to be on the order of 1000 GtCO<sub>2</sub>, which is more than the CO<sub>2</sub> storage requirements through 2100 to limit global warming to 1.5°C, although the regional availability of geological storage could be a limiting factor. If the geological storage site is appropriately selected and managed, it is estimated that the CO<sub>2</sub> can be permanently isolated from the atmosphere. Implementation of CCS currently faces technological, economic, institutional, ecological environmental and socio-cultural barriers. Currently, global rates of CCS deployment are far below those in modelled pathways limiting global warming to 1.5°C to 2°C. Enabling conditions such as policy instruments, greater public support and technological innovation could reduce these barriers. (*high confidence*) {3.3.3} AND The impacts, risks, and co-benefits of CDR deployment for ecosystems, biodiversity and people will be highly variable depending on the method, site-specific context, implementation and scale (*high confidence*).

**23. A.4.5 Original sentence:** Limited to – ‘The magnitude of climate finance flows has increased over the last decade and financing channels have broadened but growth has slowed since 2018 (*high confidence*).’

*Thank you Chair, it is late in the night but on an ethical basis, both sentences are correct, so we ask, why don't we include both sentences? Both the new sentence now in yellow (fossil fuel expenditure greater than climate finance) and the proposed sentence recognizing that the promised 100 billion which has not been delivered. Both have an ethical and scientific reason to be here, both are important, and both are interconnected. Both need to be named to recognize responsibility. Both are important statements for us as communicators to relay... therefore let us have BOTH*

**Response:** *both sentences are included in this revised paragraph, specifically:* Public and private finance flows for fossil fuels are still greater than those for climate adaptation and mitigation (*high confidence*). The overwhelming majority of tracked climate finance is directed towards mitigation, but nevertheless falls short of the levels needed to limit warming to below 2°C or to 1.5°C across all sectors and regions (see C7.2) (*very high confidence*). In 2018, public and publicly mobilised private climate finance flows from developed to developing countries were below the collective goal under the UNFCCC and

Paris Agreement to mobilise USD100 billion per year by 2020 in the context of meaningful mitigation action and transparency on implementation (medium confidence).

## **24. Closing Statement**

*Thank you Chair*

*FWCC - Quakers - are grateful to all the IPCC authors, Synthesis Technical Support Unit, the IPCC Secretariat, Bureau and Chair for these years of dedication to produce the now complete 6<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report. And thank you Switzerland as our host.*

*Chair, as Quakers, we have the honor to also speak on behalf of the Inuit Circumpolar Council, the first Indigenous Peoples organization to be an IPCC observer, as their representative has left the session.*

*The Inuit Circumpolar Council is encouraged by the openness of the IPCC to increase the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous Knowledge in its work. While progress has been made, there is much room to grow. With AR 7, the IPCC has the chance to break new ground on the equitable and ethical co-production of knowledge with Indigenous Peoples.*

*As successive IPCC reports have clearly shown, the Arctic is experiencing climate change at a much higher rate than the rest of the planet. This rapid change is having extreme adverse impacts on Inuit health and culture.*

*Inuit have decades of experience dealing with a changing climate. The Arctic reality has become a global reality. the Inuit Circumpolar Council looks forward to working closely with the IPCC to ensure the rights and interests of Indigenous Peoples are incorporated into the IPCC's future work.*

*As observers, the Inuit and Quakers will continue to uphold the IPCC in their efforts to inform our governments of urgent, real, transformative, rights-based, and ethical climate policies to protect this beautiful planet and all species.*