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**FWCC Oral Statement to be delivered at the 54th Session of the Human Rights Council**

**Item 3 General Debate**

FWCC (Quakers) appreciates this opportunity to speak under Item 3.

We welcome the latest OHCHR report on the ‘Impact of the civilian acquisition, possession and use of firearms’ ([A/HRC/53/49](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G23/087/22/PDF/G2308722.pdf?OpenElement)) that clearly illustrate the role of firearms in contributing to human rights violations and abuses. We align ourselves with [WILPFs commendable written statement](https://www.wilpf.org/advocacy_documents/hrc54-written-statement-on-the-ohchr-report-on-firearms/?_gl=1*1o526p4*_up*MQ..*_ga*OTY0NTMyNTA5LjE2OTQ0MjY0ODQ.*_ga_F02L4N7KKH*MTY5NDQyNjQ4My4xLjEuMTY5NDQyNjQ5Ni4wLjAuMA..*_ga_M0METNSX3T*MTY5NDQyNjQ4My4xLjEuMTY5NDQyNjQ5Ni4wLjAuMA..).

Importantly, the report sheds light on the role of the arms **industry** – its use of globalised supply chains to locate weapon manufacturing in countries with more permissive arms exports laws to circumvent stricter national arms control regulations, and its irresponsible marketing and lobbying strategies.

QUNO specifically supports the report’s recommendations for robust human rights due diligence requirements for companies, including those that, directly and indirectly, manufacture firearms in third countries and its reminder of the investors’ responsibility to respect human rights in their investment decisions and stewardship activities.

We call on ***all*** stakeholders to act upon the full range of recommendations from this report in their respective areas of work.

On a separate issue, QUNO welcomes efforts to explore ways for the HRC to work more effectively and coherently across all pillars of the UN and to identify mutual opportunities to address cross-cutting issues from a prevention perspective. In that regard, we sincerely hope an annual briefing by the Peacebuilding Commission Chair at a later date during this Council Session will become possible, at a time when genuine engagement is feasible. This would be a welcomed step towards developing opportunities for further exchange and dialogue - harmonizing work taking place in Geneva and New York.

\*ENDS\* Delivered by Chatrina Schumacher, Programme Assistant (Peace & Disarmament)