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Quaker United Nations Office

The Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)

Economic and Social Council Partnership Forum

“Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions.”

Presented by: Kavita Desai, UN Representative

Quaker UN Office New York

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Check against delivery

Thank you, Madam President,

The SDGs under review this year, SDGs 1, 2, 13, 16 and 17, highlight the interconnected nature of the 2030 Agenda and the necessity of collaboration to ensure no one is left behind. Civil society is a crucial partner in implementation, often providing services at local levels, despite many barriers. Strengthening partnerships will require the following:

Genuine partnership requires protection efforts. Globally we are seeing civic space shrink and increasing attacks on activists, and human rights and environmental defenders. The UN’s Community Engagement Guidelines provide a basis for addressing these concerns and the principles are relevant everywhere.

Meaningful engagement and partnership must be transparent, accessible, and include follow-up. From the UN System this could be feedback and transparency on how inputs from CSOs and others are integrated into policies and practices.

Data collaboration is vital. Recent SDG Reports have highlighted the important partnership between National Statistical Offices and CSOs in data collection, linking collaboration to increased “data inclusivity, timeliness and utilization.” Here, it is critical that there is financing that is long-term and flexible enough to improve the evidence base, and that is informed by perspectives of civil society.

Finally, as a Quaker organization we recognize that violence will not end through violence. The global rise in conflicts, linked to increasing poverty, famine, and environmental degradation, threatens to upend the promise of the 2030 Agenda and progress on all the SDGs. Partnerships and commitment to UN mandates, including eliminating poverty, hunger, and acting for climate and peace, must be met.

Thank you.