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Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) representation at the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 61st Session.

26 July – 2 August 2024, Sofia Bulgaria

The IPCC was created in 1988 with the responsibility to collate peer-reviewed climate science worldwide, and inform governments of the latest climate science findings. It received the Nobel Peace Prize shared with former 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 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 7th Assessment Cycle will include one Special Report, two Methodological Reports, and the 7th Assessment Report divided as the **Physical Science, Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, Mitigation of Climate Change**, and a final **Synthesis Report**.

The Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) is accredited under the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC). We are, to date, the only active independently accredited faith-based organization at the IPCC. 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 risks to some climate policies/technologies that would delay urgent action and pose new, novel risks.

This meeting oversaw the approval of an outline for the **Cities Special Report**, the methodology of Short-Lived Climate Forces, and (unsuccessfully) the timeline for the **Seventh Assessment Report (AR7)**.

Interventions made during the 61st meeting of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) by Lindsey Fielder Cook, QUNO Representative for the Human Impacts of Climate Change (HICC), and Anna Aguto, HICC Programme Assistant, on behalf of FWCC.

FWCC made 4 interventions at the IPCC 61st Session.

29 July

FWCC - Friends, Quakers - Thank you Chair, thank you IPCC Secretariat and the State of Bulgaria for hosting us in this beautiful city. Thank you Sweden for highlighting need to include fire in the SLCF Report. Thank you IPCC for confirming this will be included. I add, as an IPCC observer communicating IPCC findings, the need to stress clearly for Policy Makers the important conclusions and warning connections in the IPCC Land Report. Specifically, that with higher temperatures, land can shift from sink to source of GHG emissions. Where delayed action to transform root causes driving anthropogenic GHG emissions leads to otherwise still avoidable catastrophic levels of global temperature rise - in turn increased destructive forest fires. The methodological connection where land moving from sink to source is a climate impact. Thank you.

FWCC - thank you, this is a wider question for clarification to our report co-chairs. Do military emissions contribute to SLCFs and, if so, are the IPCC Report authors concerned that military emissions, estimated at 5% of total GHG emissions, would not be sufficiently included in the SLCF methodology report? Hearing the concerns of the IPCC scientists would be helpful.

1 August

FWCC - Quakers. As civil society, thank you chair and co-chairs for this inspiring and remarkable outline. We thank you for your care to equity, justice, fragility, conflict, gender, and recognition of colonization. Chair, we share a hope. That when authors focus on the cost and benefits of action and inaction, that 'cost' is not just about money. That cost of inaction includes the increase in suffering and death due to delay to act. And that the benefit of action include the ability to avert greater suffering and loss of life in every country in this room. People are already dying from our failure to transform. Thank you.

2 August

FWCC - thank you Chair, and thank you to our previous civil society for their intervention. Chair, we raise two questions and a concern. We understand that accredited observers to the IPCC, including our Indigenous Peoples observers, are NOT allowed to nominate experts to the expert meetings. We ask how, with this restriction, can the IPCC improve inclusivity and transparency of expert groups? Our second question - the IPCC reports recognise shock events which disrupt development. Shock events are happening now with the consequence of great suffering. We ask, will they be considered? Finally, we raise a serious concern over what we see as increasing risk in opening speculative technologies that are unproven, fail to transform root causes driving climate change, and, according to the AR6, pose new, novel risks to humanity and nature. This, at a time when, despite sufficient science on root causes, every fossil fuel extraction wealthy country in this room is planning to increase oil and gas extraction, while also insufficiently addressing other root causes - unsustainable land use and land change, lifestyle and patterns of production and consumption. Chair, we hope that all of us in this room return home with courage, compassion and honest to act now to build a healthy, sustainable and livable world for all.

Finally, during this meeting, the IPCC presented its **final report of the last meeting, the IPCC 60th Session.**

Remarkably, an FWCC QUNO intervention was not only quoted in the IPCC Report of the IPCC 60th Session, it was done so as a highlighted stand alone intervention:

IPCC 60 Report - page 21 - [220720240951-Doc. 11, Rev. 1 - Draft Report IPCC-60.pdf](#)

The Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) took the floor.

The insufficient reporting of military emissions in the GHG inventories was raised as a concern.

The Panel took note of the TFI Progress Report (IPCC-LX/INF. 5).