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**Quaker United Nations Office**

**FWCC Oral Statement to be delivered at the 55th session of the Human Rights Council Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment**

Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers), Soka Gakkai International, the World Council of Churches-Commission of Churches on International Affairs, and the Anglican Consultative Council thank the Special Rapporteur for his essential work on the responsibility of business enterprises to respect the human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.

These reports uphold the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 6th Assessment Report that name unsustainable patterns of consumption and production as a major root cause driving climate change and related planetary crises.[[1]](#footnote-1)

Colleagues, the role of unsustainable and inequitable economic systems remains the elephant in the room. In our avoidance, we feed a dangerous reliance on false solutions and ‘techno-fixes,’ like large-scale carbon dioxide removal, that fail to healthily transform the root causes driving planetary crisis and instead, pose threats to human rights, Indigenous peoples’ rights, water, food, and biodiversity security.

The reports highlight the failures of the ‘free market’ to internalize the costs of harm to the climate, the environment, human health, and human rights, caused by business products, services, and activities. The reports recognize the harassment, criminalization, intimidation, and even murder of environmental defenders in protecting their lands, waters, and environment. We value the reports’ recognition that environmental justice cannot be separated from racial, gender, and economic justice.

At the core, the reports emphasize transformation and accountability. We uphold the reports’ conclusions, including the need to embrace the growing calls for alternative economic frameworks, such as sufficiency, to live within planetary boundaries. If implemented, these recommendations would enhance civil society’s trust in our governments and show that you truly seek a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.

We ask that you listen and act responsibly and courageously in this brief window of opportunity to secure a liveable, sustainable, and equitable world.

We ask the Special Rapporteur: how can the Human Rights Council better promote principles of a ‘human rights economy’?

1. IPCC, 2022: Summary for Policymakers. In: *Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change.* Contribution of Working Group III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, NY, USA. p. 40, <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGIII_SummaryForPolicymakers.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)