



FWCC/SGI Oral Statement to be delivered at the 58th session of the Human Rights Council Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

Friends World Committee for Consultation, Quakers, and Soka Gakkai International express thanks to the Special Rapporteur for her report emphasizing our collective responsibility to protect the ocean on which the lives of all species depend. The right to a healthy environment relies on ocean health and conservation.

The ocean “has stored more than 90 per cent of the heat from human-caused climate change and one third of the world’s carbon emissions”¹. We therefore highlight the report’s profound concern over rising political interest in speculative, high risk and unproven-to-scale marine geoengineering technologies. They do not address unsustainable energy, agriculture and economic systems driving climate change. Instead, these technologies delay real mitigation of root causes while increasing dangerous risks of marine ecosystem collapse. We remind the Council that high carbon dioxide concentrations led to the last great marine extinction 252 million years ago. We cannot knowingly repeat this collapse.

We uphold the report’s call that, “Immediate action is essential to phase out fossil fuel reliance, protect vulnerable habitats and align ocean activities with sustainable climate and biodiversity targets”².

The ocean is already under profound stress from heating and plastic pollution; we must promote sustainable ocean practices to prevent further severe and irreversible damage.

Guided by the values of sustainability and simplicity, we call on all States to uphold the right to a healthy environment by honoring the natural world and enabling harmony with the incredible biodiversity of this planet.

*** ENDS ***

¹ Astrid Puentes Riaño, *The ocean and human rights*, Human Rights Council, February 2025 P. 6

² Astrid Puentes Riaño, *The ocean and human rights*, Human Rights Council, February 2025 P. 11