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Response to U.N. Special Rapporteur on climate change's call for inputs for her report on the Fossil Fuel-based Economy and human rights **February 2025**

Introduction

Quaker United Nations Office appreciates the chance to respond to the call for submissions addressing human rights impacts of the fossil fuel-based economy and expected impacts of the phase out of fossil fuels and related subsidies. In this submission, we will address the human rights impacts of the extraction, sale, production, and consumption of fossil fuels. We will ground our suggestions in scientific research, in particular, from the IPCC, where QUNO is an accredited observer and expert reviewer of drafts. Finally, we will share best practices and human rights based approaches for implementing a just, equitable, and sustainable transition away from fossil fuels.

1. What is the full range of human rights impacts of the fossil fuel-based economy? What are the systemic causes of these impacts? Who is disproportionality affected by these impacts and why?

The extraction, production, sale, and consumption of fossil fuels and their role in driving resource conflicts and existential rates of global warming, violate and hinder the full enjoyment of a wide range of rights. These include, but are not limited to, the human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, the right to life, the right to food, the right to water and sanitation, and the right to life.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) clearly shows the direct tie between the fossil fuel economy, rising global temperatures, and the urgent need for a transformative shift to transform root causes driving anthropogenic GHG emissions.

- AR6 states that, “The cumulative scientific evidence is unequivocal: climate change is a threat to human well-being and planetary health (very high confidence). Any further delay in concerted anticipatory global action on adaptation and mitigation will miss a brief and rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all.”¹
- AR6 concludes with high confidence that the fossil fuel economy is driving existential rates of global temperature rise: “Human-induced climate change is a consequence of more than a century of net GHG emissions from unsustainable energy use, land-use and land use change, lifestyle and patterns of consumption and production. Without urgent, effective and equitable

¹ IPCC, 2023: Sections. In: *Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* [Core Writing Team, H. Lee and J. Romero (eds.)]. IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland, p. 89, https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_SYR_FullVolume.pdf.

mitigation actions, climate change increasingly threatens the health and livelihoods of people around the globe, ecosystem health and biodiversity”.²

- Furthermore, “global energy system fossil fuel CO₂ emissions grew by 4.6% between 2015 and 2019 (1.1% yr⁻¹), reaching 38 GtCO₂ yr⁻¹ and accounting for approximately two-thirds of annual global anthropogenic GHG emissions.³
- IPCC reports add that “anthropogenic GHG emissions continue to grow and have reached a historic high, driven mainly by continued fossil fuels use”.⁴ “Modelled pathways consistent with the continuation of policies implemented by the end of 2020 lead to global warming of 3.2 [2.2-3.5]°C (5–95% range) by 2100 (medium confidence”.⁵

The following outlines some of the direct impacts on specific human rights that climate change will contribute to, as driven by the fossil fuel economy.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has specifically identified climate change as a threat to realizing the right to food, and outlined this in a 2024 report focused on adverse impacts of climate change imposed on food systems.⁶

Because climate change is increasing rates of desertification and drought, large populations will lose their right to clean water and sanitation in times of climate related emergency and in the long term. Those whose homes and livelihoods are destroyed by natural disasters exacerbated by climate change often lack safe and clean drinking water and sanitary conditions that they may have been able to access previously. In time, huge swaths of the globe will have reduced access to drinking water seasonally and during periods of extended drought. As UNESCO’s 2020 World Water Development Report on Water and Climate Change states, “Climate change will affect the availability, quality and quantity of water for basic human needs, threatening the effective enjoyment of the human rights to water and sanitation for potentially billions of people.”⁷

Regarding the right to health, at the international level, the fossil fuel economy exacerbates health disparities and conditions across the globe. Global premature deaths due to air pollution speak to the direct limitations on the right to health imposed by the fossil fuel economy. A State of Global Air report by the Health Effects Institute and UNICEF found that over 8.1 million deaths in 2021 could be attributed to air pollution. Researchers found that “Many sources of air pollution — including the burning of fossil fuels and biomass — are also contributors to greenhouse gas emissions that are causing our planet to warm. As we continue to burn these fuels in our vehicles, power plants, factories, fields, and homes, both air

² 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

³ IPCC, 2022: *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. 619

https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGIII_FullReport.pdf

⁴ Ibid., P. 220

⁵ IPCC, 2023: Sections. In: *Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* [Core Writing Team, H. Lee and J. Romero (eds.)]. IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland, pp. 35-115, doi: 10.59327/IPCC/AR6-9789291691647 P. 68

https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_SYR_LongerReport.pdf

⁶ Human Rights Council, *Measures for minimizing the adverse impact of climate change on the full realization of the right to food*, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, February, 2024. <https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/55/37>

⁷ UNESCO, UN-Water, 2020: United Nations World Water Development Report 2020: *Water and Climate Change*, Paris, UNESCO.

pollution and the impact on our climate grow worse. At the same time, the symptoms of climate change are further exacerbating air pollution.”⁸

In addition to these global effects, the extraction and burning of fossil fuels leads to highly localized health impacts for specific communities and individuals with high exposure to the fossil fuel economy. Authors of a 2020 study on cancer rates and fossil fuel production, found that “proximity to an oil refinery was associated with a statistically significantly increased risk of incident cancer diagnosis across all cancer types.”⁹

As highlighted in this 2019 report by UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment, David Boyd, “Air pollution affects everyone, causing widespread violations of the right to breathe clean air. Yet the burden of related disease has a disproportionate impact on certain vulnerable populations... Major sources of ambient air pollution, including power plants, factories, incinerators and busy roads, are often located in poor communities.”¹⁰ The differentiated human rights impacts of the fossil fuel economy impact vulnerable populations and individuals most heavily, both as macro forces and in their likelihood to have highly localized effects on vulnerable populations. Climate change is exacerbating these unjust and variegated impacts and the IPCC reports that, “without effective mitigation and adaptation, losses and damages will continue to disproportionately affect the poorest and most vulnerable populations.”¹¹

Regarding the right to life, the role of fossil fuels in exacerbating conflict connects to that most essential of human rights, the right to life. Research has shown that violent conflicts can be shown to be fully or partially attributable to disagreements over control of fossil fuel resources, in particular oil. A Harvard policy brief from the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs concluded that “oil is a leading cause of war. Between one-quarter and one-half of interstate wars since 1973 have been linked to oil.”¹² Women’s League for International Peace and Freedom, an international peace organization founded over 115 years ago, writes that, “fossil fuels have been clearly implicated in inter-state wars, militarism, civil wars and separatist movements as well as systemic acts of violence, insecurity and (gendered) human rights violations on the peacetime-wartime continuum.”¹³

Although deducing the cause of complicated international conflicts risks oversimplification and reduction, the role of resource competition for fossil fuels has often been a contributing if not primary factor. Reports from Human Rights Watch and the UN Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan have documented the role of oil reserves in initiating and perpetuating war, conflict, and resulting human

⁸ Health Effects Institute. 2024. *State of Global Air 2024*. Special Report. Boston, MA:Health Effects Institute. P. 4 https://www.stateofglobalair.org/sites/default/files/documents/2024-06/soga-2024-report_o.pdf

⁹ Williams SB, Shan Y, et al. *Proximity to Oil Refineries and Risk of Cancer: A Population-Based Analysis*. JNCI Cancer Spectrum. 2020 Oct 7; Vol. 4. <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7691047/>

¹⁰ Human Rights Council, *Issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment*, Report of David Boyd, United Nations Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment, January, 2019. <https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/40/55> P. 6-7

¹¹ IPCC, 2023: Sections. In: *Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report*. p. 62, https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_SYR_FullVolume.pdf.

¹² Colgan, Jeff D. *Oil, Conflict, and U.S. National Interests*, Policy Brief, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School, October 2013.

https://www.belfercenter.org/sites/default/files/pantheon_files/files/publication/colgan-final-policy-brief-2013.pdf

¹³ Geyer, Katrin. *Stop Fossil Fuels from Fueling Conflict: Why the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty is an essential climate tool for peace*, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom. 2024.

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5dd3cc5b7fd99372fbb04561/t/66f337e40393de668414aa0e/1727215594202/2-A4-internet-FossilFuel.pdf>

rights abuses in Sudan.^{14,15} Likewise, Common Wealth reports that in the early twentieth century, “the British empire’s division of former Ottoman regions was explicitly designed around plans for hydrocarbon pipelines.”¹⁶ Academic researchers have found that, “the likelihood of a third-party intervention [in ongoing internal wars] increases when (a) the country at war has large reserves of oil, (b) the relative competition in the sector is limited, and (c) the potential intervener has a higher demand for oil.”¹⁷ The role of fossil fuels and their power within an economy dependent on their price and availability is a major reason they cause such division and fuel related human rights abuses and violations. The primary takeaway of a metanalysis of over fourteen studies investigating the relationship between natural resources and civil war was that “oil increases the likelihood of conflict”.¹⁸ One 2020 study summarized academic findings on the topic by stating that, “extensive studies show how oil fuels conflict both in the domestic and international realms in several ways: states try acquiring oil reserves by force; oil facilitates domestic repression by autocratic leaders; and oil revenues help financing armed groups in civil wars”.¹⁹

The importance of fossil fuels within the world economic system and the historic and continuing reliance of States and their militaries on fossil fuel energy for economic growth, industrial power, and military strength and mobilization mean that fossil fuels are a coveted resource and have frequently been a major contributor to regional and international conflict, war, tension and instability. As a driver of conflict, the associated human rights abuses and violations that stem from war, violence, securitization, and geopolitical instability should also be attributed in part to the influence of the fossil fuel economy. Violent conflict driven by the fossil-fuel based economy is thus a systemic cause of human rights abuses and a violation of the right to life.

Additionally, militarism and military spending are strongly linked to the consumption of fossil fuels, continued market demand for fossil energy, and environmental and human destruction caused by militaries that run on fossil fuels. A 2025 report by the Climate and Community Institute states that, “Militaries are responsible for 5.5 percent of global carbon emissions... Beyond emissions, military activities are inherently destructive: military bases, other infrastructure, and the core functions of militaries... cause substantial environmental damage and incredible human harm.”²⁰ Common Wealth has calculated that, “the UK and US militaries have jointly emitted at least 430 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent since the year of the Paris Climate Agreement — more than the total greenhouse gas emissions

¹⁴ Human Rights Watch, Sudan, Oil, and Human Rights, 2003.

<https://archive.org/details/2003SudanOilAndHumanRightsAfrica>

¹⁵ Human Rights Council, Report of the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan, February 2019.

https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ohchr.org%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2FDocuments%2FHRCBodies%2FHRCouncil%2FCoHRSouthSudan%2FA_HRC_40_69.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK

¹⁶ Patrick Bigger, Nick Pearce, et al., *Less War, Less Warming: A Reparative Approach to US and UK Military Ecological Damages*, Common Wealth, 2023. https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/62306a0b42f386df612fe5b9/6543bc046810de2fe759cf8d_military%20emissions%20final.pdf

¹⁷ Bove, V., Gleditsch, K. S., & Sekeris, P. G. “Oil above Water”: *Economic Interdependence and Third-party Intervention*, Journal of Conflict Resolution, 2016. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0022002714567952>

¹⁸ Ross, M. L. (2004). *What Do We Know about Natural Resources and Civil War?* Journal of Peace Research. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0022343304043773>

¹⁹ San-Akca, Belgin et al. *Does natural gas fuel civil war? Rethinking energy security, international relations, and fossil-fuel conflict*, Energy Research and Social Science vol. 70 (2020).

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7385061/>

²⁰ Patrick Bigger and Lorah Steichen. *The Climate Crisis and the US War Machine*, Climate and Community Institute, 2025. <https://climateandcommunity.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/The-Climate-Crisis-and-the-US-War-Machine.pdf>

produced in the UK in 2022.”²¹ The fossil fuel economy feeds the military economy with collectively dire implications for human rights.

In contrast, mitigating reliance on the use of fossil fuels through an equitable transition has benefits for the advancement of human rights. QUNO research has previously explored the ties between peacebuilding and decarbonization, analyzing “the significant opportunities that sustainable and just transitions away from fossil fuels can provide for peace, socio-economic and political stability, health, environmental regeneration and justice globally”.²² A transition away from fossil fuels to renewable energy and a recognition of the need for a reduction in energy use and more efficient use of existing energy supplies presents a promising path forward to both reduce carbon emissions and bolster human rights. Evidence supports the idea that “economic and geopolitical incentives for states to engage in conflicts to secure or control [renewable energy] resources are low”, and States may be incentivized to work more collaboratively on renewable energy development projects and in the sharing of energy that is non-extractive.²³ Furthermore, for those States traditionally reliant on external energy resources, national security and stability can be increased by utilizing internally plentiful renewable resources, shown to be more evenly distributed geographically.²⁴ Such self-sufficiency would limit anxiety fueling the desire for military hegemony and the hard power required to influence markets and keep supply chains open. As QUNO research has cataloged, renewable energy ownership can support peacebuilding.²⁵ Because renewable energies can be localized, they offer the possibility of local collaboration and compromise. Community and public ownership of energy development also democratizes their benefits.²⁶ Incorporating best practices such as early and frequent community communication makes implementation, acceptance and use of these resources more likely, while aligning development with principles of climate and energy justice.²⁷ In turn, as the IPCC states with high confidence, “adaptation and mitigation actions, across scales, sectors and regions, that prioritise equity, climate justice, rights-based approaches, social justice and inclusivity, lead to more sustainable outcomes, reduce trade-offs, support transformative change and advance climate resilient development.”²⁸

2. What are the current and likely human rights impacts of a transition away from fossil fuels and of the phase out of fossil fuel subsidies? What are the causes of these actual and potential impacts? Who is likely to be disproportionately affected by these impacts and why?

²¹ Patrick Bigger, Nick Pearce, et al., *Less War, Less Warming: A Reparative Approach to US and UK Military Ecological Damages*, Common Wealth, 2023. https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/62306a0b42f386df612fe5b9/6543bc046810de2fe759cf8d_military%20emissions%20final.pdf

²² Priestley, Cara, (2020). *The Peacebuilding Implications of Energy Transitions to a Carbon-Neutral Future*. Quaker United Nations Office, Geneva

²³ André Månsson, *A resource curse for renewables? Conflict and cooperation in the renewable energy sector*, Energy Research & Social Science, Volume 10, 2015. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S221462961500079>

²⁴ Roman Vakulchuk, Indra Overland, Daniel Scholten, *Renewable energy and geopolitics: A review*, Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews, Volume 122, 2020. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1364032119307555>

²⁵ Edwards, I., (2018). *The role of decentralized renewable energy in peacebuilding*. Quaker United Nations Office, Geneva.

²⁶ IRENA Coalition for Action (2024), *Community energy benefits: Powering universal wellbeing*, International Renewable Energy Agency, Abu Dhabi.

²⁷ Edwards, I., (2018). *The role of decentralized renewable energy in peacebuilding*. Quaker United Nations Office, Geneva.

²⁸ IPCC, 2023: Sections. In: *Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report*. p. 101, https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_SYR_FullVolume.pdf

The transition from a fossil fuel economy to one based on the sufficient and efficient use of renewable energy provides an opportunity to prioritize positive human rights developments within the energy transition.

Firstly, for reasons outlined above related to the adverse effect of fossil fuels at the micro and macro level, significant health benefits would accrue from a society less dependent on the extraction and consumption of fossil fuels. Advances in health would likely be measured by reduced air pollution and affiliated declines in the rates of cancer, respiratory, and heart diseases. As the IPCC states, “The benefits from air quality improvement include prevention of air pollution-related premature deaths, chronic diseases and damages to ecosystems and crops.”²⁹ By mitigating the most dire impacts of climate change, a just and sustainable energy transition would also help limit future threats to accessing food, clean water, and sanitation. IPCC reports with high confidence that “rapid and far-reaching transitions across all sectors and systems are necessary to achieve deep and sustained emissions reductions and secure a liveable and sustainable future.”³⁰

Associated negative results are likely to occur if a transition is not accomplished at a sufficient speed to avert major consequences of warming, or if it is accomplished in an inequitable manner that reinforces existing power imbalances, or exacerbates economic, racial, or global inequalities. These impacts on sustainable development goals are supported by IPCC reports which find that, “redistributive policies across sectors and regions that shield the poor and vulnerable, social safety nets, equity, inclusion and just transitions, at all scales can enable deeper societal ambitions and resolve trade-offs with sustainable development goals (SDGs), particularly education, hunger, poverty, gender and energy access (high confidence).”³¹

Rentier States, whose economies predominantly depend on extractive industries, are reliant on the benefits of reduced energy prices for their own internal populations. These nations would not immediately enjoy these same benefits from switching to alternative energy, prompting concerns that inequalities and associated human rights in these specific States, such as Oman, could suffer.³² In particular, if such States and related international agreements facilitating the energy transition do not incorporate elements of energy justice such as the inclusion, participation, and consultation of affected populations in decision making, and do not make explicit provision to support those impacted by changing economic and labor conditions, energy transitions are unlikely to be responsive to local needs and to take into account human rights for the most marginalized.^{33,34} As the IPCC summarizes, “Implementing just transition principles

²⁹ Ibid., P. 95

³⁰ IPCC, 2023: Climate Change 2023: *Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* [Core Writing Team, H. Lee and J. Romero (eds.)]. IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland, P 28., doi: 10.59327/IPCC/AR6-9789291691647

³¹ IPCC, 2023: Sections. In: Climate Change 2023: *Synthesis Report*. p. 31, https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_SYR_FullVolume.pdf.

³² Ahad Al Yahyai, Tina Soliman-Hunter, *Shifting national interest in petroleum-producing countries during the energy transition: the Omani experience*, *The Journal of World Energy Law & Business*, 2024;, jwae019, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jwelb/jwae019>

³³ Miguel Angel Rios-Ocampo, Jose Carlos Romero, et al., *A just energy transition is not just a transition: Framing energy justice for a quantitative assessment*, *Energy Research & Social Science*, Volume 119, 2025. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2214629624004912>

³⁴ Raphael J. Heffron, *Applying energy justice into the energy transition*, *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews*, Volume 156, 2022. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1364032121012016>

through collective and participatory decision-making processes is an effective way of integrating equity principles into policies at all scales depending on national circumstances”.³⁵

Regarding the impact and phase out of fossil fuel subsidies, the IPCC states that, “Removing fossil fuel subsidies would reduce emissions, improve public revenue and macroeconomic performance, and yield other environmental and sustainable development benefits such as improved public revenue, macroeconomic and sustainability performance; subsidy removal can have adverse distributional impacts especially on the most economically vulnerable groups which, in some cases, can be mitigated by measures such as re-distributing revenue saved, and depend on national circumstances (high confidence).”³⁶ This topic is addressed in more detail by colleagues from QUNO’s Sustainable and Just Economic Program in a submission which focuses more fully on the financial and environmental impact of fossil fuel subsidies.

5. Are there gaps or barriers in the domestic regulation of business activities in the fossil fuel-based economy that prevent the protection of human rights? Are there specific examples of State regulation of a just transition away from fossil fuels and/or fossil fuel phase out? To what extent do these examples provide rights-based, gender-responsive, age-sensitive, disability-inclusive and risk-informed approaches to a just transition away from fossil fuels that prevent discrimination?

Existing regulatory processes and government policies frequently support the ongoing profitability and market share of the fossil fuel economy.³⁷ Regulatory gaps also enable sacrifice zones, such as Cancer Alley in the USA, where systemic and racialized health disparities have been frequently documented.³⁸ Investment in fossil fuel projects do not adequately factor in the social cost of carbon.³⁹ As discussed earlier, these tax incentives and subsidies to fossil fuels unfairly privilege technologies whose health risks and other environmental externalities are not adequately considered.

In contrast to these existing inequities in the regulatory environment, the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) presents a model for a public accounting of the costs associated with the fossil fuel economy. EITI publishes payments made to and by fossil fuel companies, creating an audited and transparent record of these transactions.⁴⁰ This shows the costs and investment that companies and governments are allocating toward business dealings that increase emissions. Government regulations should incorporate a mechanism to mandate publicization of these transactions as a federal priority or go further by linking published data with policy objectives to reduce existing spending on fossil fuels.

8. Are there proposals to scale up national, regional or global action a just transition away from fossil fuels and fossil fuel phase out? And how do these proposals take into account the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national

³⁵ IPCC, 2023: Sections. In: Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report. p. 102, https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_SYR_FullVolume.pdf.

³⁶ IPCC, 2022: Technical Summary. In: *Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, NY, USA. p.127

https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGIII_TechnicalSummary.pdf

³⁷ OECD (2024), OECD Inventory of Support Measures for Fossil Fuels 2024: Policy Trends up to 2023, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/a2f063fe-en>.

³⁸ Sistu, Neeharika, Living and Dying in 'Cancer Alley': Using Human Rights Law and Environmental Justice to Create a Litigation Framework for Marginalized Communities (2023). Honors Scholar Theses.

https://digitalcommons.lib.uconn.edu/srhonors_theses/1035

³⁹ Rickels, W., Meier, F. & Quaas, M. *The historical social cost of fossil and industrial CO₂ emissions*. Nat. Clim. Chang. 13, 742–747 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-023-01709-1>

⁴⁰ Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, *EITI Standard 2023*, 2025. <https://eiti.org/eiti-standard>

circumstances and in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, all in pursuit of the objectives of the Convention and the Paris Agreement?

A Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (FFNPT) represents one of the major initiatives to further international support for an equitable transition away from the fossil fuel based economy.⁴¹ Similarly, as currently conceptualized by the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative, the FFNPT would build on the foundation of the Paris Agreement to provide a legally binding treaty requiring parties to fully phase out the use of fossil fuels including coal, oil, and natural gas.⁴² The FFNPT is particularly valuable as an international proposal because of its recognition in prioritizing the need to transition away from fossil fuels, not adapt or limit associated emissions through negative emissions technologies. Furthermore, it strongly emphasizes principles of equity as a key way to further objectives expressed in the Paris agreement and UN Sustainable Development Goals, while supporting a just transition for those reliant on the economic systems perpetuated by existing fossil fuel production assets.

Conclusion: It is clear that a strong relationship ties the fossil fuel economy to human rights violations. Quaker United Nations Office has presented evidence demonstrating the need for a sustainable and just transformation from a fossil fuel dependent economy. We thank the Special Rapporteur for this opportunity to engage and respond to such critical questions impacting the health and safety of the planet and all of its inhabitants.

⁴¹ Peter Newell, Harro van Asselt, Freddie Daley, *Building a fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty: Key elements*, Earth System Governance, Volume 14, 2022, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2589811622000283>

⁴² Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative, "About: Our Mission and History", 2025. <https://fossilfuel treaty.org/about-treaty>