Framework Convention on
Climate Change

Submitting organization: **Quaker United Nations Office through the Friends World Committee for Consultation (1)**

Description of climate action

1. ***Description of the climate action:***
   Decentralize Renewable Energy support through Feed-in Tariff mechanisms. Feed-in Tariffs provide a standard price for renewable energy installation and provide long-term contracts. Feed-in Tariffs have made it possible for communities, cooperatives, and landowner collectives in places like Germany to pool their resources and put up their own turbines and solar panels. When resources are pooled, even the poorest in the communities can also benefit from renewable energy in their homes and lessens the inequality in resource allocation. Energiewende is the name for the energy transition in Germany, a full-scale transformation of society and economy that triggered a strong increase in renewable energy supply in the country. It endorsed a general vision of an alternative society based on decentralized structures, bottom-up processes, participatory democracy, and environmentally conscious economies with decentralized, renewable power supply with many smaller, localised producers. It resulted in thousands of participants in Germany's electricity market, the vast majority of which do not own power plants or supplier networks. Mostly small actors, like farmers, co-ops, citizen-led groups, and other non-industry companies, have invested in green energy production, mostly thermal and solar PV, bio-energy and onshore wind technology. In Germany, about 50% of renewable energy projects became community owned, with more than 100,000 individuals owning a stake in a wind project. For solar PV, people could get a loan from government owned development bank (KfW) and energy companies were required to purchase the electricity generated at guaranteed subsidised electricity rates, which in turn paid back the loan directly until the solar panels were fully owned. This inclusivity meant that wealth did not factor into who was able to benefit from the renewable energy boom.

2. ***Name of the policy action:***
   Decentralized Renewable Energy ownership through feed-in tariff mechanisms.

3. ***The objective of the action:***
   The objectives include increased energy access to the most vulnerable, reducing poverty through establishing equitable ownership of sustainable energy, reduction of use of fossil fuels being the main driver of GHG emissions, and contributing to

peacebuilding. Specifically, a decentralized ownership (DRE) of renewable energy systems contribute to peacebuilding.

Historically, energy systems have the capacity to generate conflict. This may be through the economic importance of the energy source, the physical and technical characteristics of the energy carriers, or the environmental consequences of the energy use. Fossil fuel projects have traditionally played a part in exacerbating community tensions and, at times, even violent conflict. Prevention of destructive or violent conflict around natural resources can be understood as a process of peacebuilding—creating the personal and institutional capacities needed to handle conflict constructively, and addressing the root causes that lead to destructive conflict such as inequality and marginalisation. A decentralized approach to renewable energy projects, where projects are part or fully owned by local communities for the benefit of local communities, could combine energy provision with a peacebuilding approach.

In addition to these factors, renewable energy is connected to a low-carbon future and climate change mitigation strategies. Rapid access to low carbon forms of energy will be able to reduce the concentrations of GHG emissions being released, in turn reducing the impacts of climate change. Ensuring all countries' transition to a low carbon economy with more DRE is a long-term strategy for global peacebuilding. Ownership of DRE systems by local communities reduces some of the potential conflict risks of large-scale renewable energy. Decentralized ownership means greater self-reliance, local approval and planning, as well as greater local accountability and responsibility for social and environmental impacts of electricity use. Community-scale projects could support local economic circulation (i.e. the multiplier effect) and local income via sales and returns on investments and create more local jobs than large-scale projects, while creating opportunities for residents to be owners and decision-makers. By retaining economic benefits locally and sharing benefits more broadly, the DRE model is expected to build a stronger political constituency. This can build relationships among neighbours and the capacity for self-reliance among communities, allowing people and communities greater autonomy from currently dominant institutions. If projects are decentralized in ownership and put the rights of people first, more of the renewable energy benefits which contribute to peacebuilding in communities can materialise, rather than the risk factors to conflict. DRE has already begun to be used in peacebuilding projects around the world. The full potential of this form of energy has not yet been reached and may well play a much larger part in the peacebuilding projects to come. A low carbon technology with rights-based, decentralized ownership contributes to peacebuilding, finally seeing energy resources becoming a road to peace instead of conflict.

4. ***The country in which the policy was implemented:***
   Germany

5. ***The geographical coverage of the action:***
   National

6. ***Classification of the action (Programme, policy, or project):***
   Policy

7. ***References such as link to a website:***
   https://www.communityplanning.net/pub-film/pdf/GuideToDevelopingACREProject.pdf; https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=26372; https://www.cleanenergywire.org/dossiers/history-energiewende

8. ***Other relevant details about the climate action, as necessary:***
   This climate action addresses not only healthy and equitable reduction of GHG emissions, it also contributes to sustainable energy access, contributes to peacebuilding through reduction of pollution and conflicts historic to fossil fuel extraction and use, and is key to genuine sustainable energy transformation.

9. ***The type of action (Adaptation, mitigation, or both):***
   Mitigation

10. ***The sector(s) targeted by the policy:***
    Energy

Co-benefits and assessment of co-benefits of the climate action

11. ***The area(s) for which co-benefits were monitored***
    As already listed, co-benefits include equitable ownership of sustainable and renewable energy sources, reduction of poverty through decentralized energy ownership, feed-in tariff approach for rapid and popular implementation nation-wide that with the development bank loan system, became available to all people regardless of income and supported cash-poor but roof generous communities like the farming communities. With these co-benefits, society supports rather than resists transformative climate action because they experience the benefits directly.

12. ***The co-benefits that have arisen from the implementation of such climate action, including secondary co-benefits that may arise from the identified co-benefits:***
    Rapid uptake of renewable energy / community support for climate action / greater energy access and ownership equity in society / reduced GHG emissions for a global

chance to avert catastrophic global temperature rise resulting in unprecedented suffering, ecosystem collapse and loss of life.

13. ***Explanation of how such co-benefits were assessed and analyzed in detail, including how the assessment accounted for, among others, different groups of stakeholders, different types of households, gender considerations, and benefits to vulnerable groups:***

    We have already given an overview of the support to a wide range of households and vulnerable communities. We ask that the KCI use the websites included and engagement with the German Government for greater detail.

14. ***The process, including methodology(ies) that was used and data collection, of the assessment and analysis:***

    With the information already included above, for specific methodologies and assessment and analysis is available through a range of reporting including https://www.cleanenergywire.org/dossiers/history-energiewende

15. ***The sources of data that were used in the assessment and analysis:***

    Both government statistics and academic studies on the experience and co-benefits of Energiewende, alongside widespread use of solar panels in Germany surpassing many, more sunny, countries in Europe.

16. ***The actions undertaken to promote the co-benefits, if applicable:***

    Again - Germany, about 50% of renewable energy projects became community owned, with more than 100,000 individuals owning a stake in a wind project. For solar PV, people could get a loan from government owned development bank (KfW) and energy companies were required to purchase the electricity generated at guaranteed subsidised electricity rates, which in turn paid back the loan directly until the solar panels were fully owned. This inclusivity meant that wealth did not factor into who was able to benefit from the renewable energy boom.

17. ***The actions undertaken or policy/plan put in place to maximize these co-benefits, if applicable, noting the co-benefits:***

    The key was access to a state development back loan that enabled cash-poor people to have extensive solar use on available roof spaces. Income generated from solar energy went directly to pay for the loan, taking the financial stress off the owner, for example, cash-poor farming communities with extensive roof space. This maximized co-benefits because, in many countries, ownership of solar is only for those who can afford to pay for the panels outright.

18. ***The indicators that are used to monitor these co-benefits, if the implementation of these climate actions includes monitoring of co-benefits:***
    This information can be gained from the German Energiewende website.

19. ***The challenges, barriers and lessons learned from assessing, analyzing and monitoring, as applicable, the co-benefits of climate actions:***
    Challenges include maintaining a government's political commitment to prioritize financial investment in renewable energy transformations across all income communities.

Any other relevant information:

We offer this example to stress that peace and justice can also be strengthened through climate action, in addition to reduction of GHG emissions to avert catastrophic global temperature rise.