

# **CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH**



We, members and volunteers of the Centre for Human Rights and Climate Change Research, the Young Research Forum, Climate Law Research and Advocacy Group consisting of environmental/climate and human rights lawyers, human rights organizations, women's Rights Organizations, child's rights/ protection networks, child's rights organizations, academia and Legal clinicians networking as a social movement and in partnership with the common goal of empowering citizen's globally to promote understanding of environmental rights, environmental ethics, ecosystem restoration and strengthening of international environmental governance for a pollution free world jointly make this submission.

## **GENERAL RECOMMENDATION**

Recognizing the importance addressing the issue of plastic pollution through an international legal framework as key to achieving a pollution free planet and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Climate Agreement and the outcome of UNEA5, commit to contributing actively to the work of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. We call for a framework that will promotes behavioural change, puts into perspective the gender aspects as it affects, women, youth and the most vulnerable, creates incentive for plastic recycling including tracing and removing hazardous substances and contaminants from recycled plastics, promotes investment in alternatives, removes subsidies at every stage of the life cycle of plastics, criminalizes transboundary activities related to plastic pollution and promotes development and monitoring of progressive, time bound work plans and activities aimed at responding to, reducing and phasing out plastic pollution.

## **SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Integration and Linkages with existing Framework**

We call for an instrument that takes into full consideration existing international instruments and efforts at the national, regional and international levels and non-binding recommendations, strategies and guidelines.

### **Proposed Timetable of Sessions of Negotiating Committee**

We thank you for the two options proposed but believe that setting a realistic timeline for effective consultation and negotiation is key to having an optimal instrument that will cover

the field. In that light we propose that the Committee should convene at least five sessions, of 10 days each, and a concluding session and propose that 1 more negotiation session be added and the timetable adjusted as follows. This session proposes a schedule as follows:

- a. First session during the second half of August 2022, providing for a five-day meeting preceded by three days for regional consultations and the forum;
- b. Second session in late November, 2022;
- c. Third session in late February 2023;
- d. Fourth session in late May 2024;
- e. Fifth session in August 2024.
- f. Sixth session in November 2024.

### **Modalities for the participation of multi-stakeholders in the Ad Hoc Committee**

Recognizing the expertise that is banked in major group/multi-stakeholders constituencies and in the light of allowing active participation in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee as observers, without the right to vote. Although participation may not entail negotiation and drafting roles, one written submission from official major groups/stakeholder consultation should be included as working document and distributed as part of official list of documents.

### **Elements of and Options for the Structure of the International Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic**

1. Provisions on rules regulating ban and restriction on plastics and micro plastics including single-use plastic bags, polystyrene containers, products containing microbeads, plastic products used in food industry including straws, forks, knives, non-degradable bags, cotton buds etc,
2. Provisions aimed at strengthening and enforcing existing rules on the storage, manufacture and use of some single-use plastics.
3. Provisions that promotes innovations and technology for recycling plastics and integrates plastics recycling in a circular economy without trading off human rights.
4. Provisions that bans the Importation, movement and distribution of plastics and plastic waste in a Transboundary context.
5. Control of transboundary movements of hazardous plastic and their disposal  
In the ocean and marine environment.  
Provision on Liability and Compensation for Damage Resulting from Transboundary Movements of Hazardous plastic waste.
6. Criminalization of transboundary movements of hazardous plastic and their disposal
7. Provisions that forms the basis for procedural measures for legal enforcement and compliance.
8. Provisions that harmonization efforts and synthesizes lessons around International, regional, national and community practices.

9. Provisions that removes incentives for plastic production and creates incentives for alternatives,