

Written submission from Ecuador
**Recommendations for the organization of the Intergovernmental Negotiating
Committee**

General considerations:

- It is necessary to undertake an action-oriented analysis of the goal, scope and non-exhaustive elements and provisions of the new legally binding instrument as mandated by UNEA Resolution 5/14, to identify areas of work and consider potential options to structure them.
- Regarding the goal and scope, Resolution 5/14 specifies the development of an international legally binding instrument to eliminate plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastic. The INC-1 should address first the main objective and scope of the instrument; followed by the relevant principles, as well as the general structure of the secondary objectives, goals and targets.
- The INC should also take a science-based approach to break down the problem into specific categories. In accordance with OP4 of the Resolution 5/14, the INC can consider, since its first session, a mechanism to provide relevant scientific evidence and data on plastic pollution, taking into account, inter alia, the experience of Chemical Review Committee - CRC under the Stockholm Convention.
- The INC should secure the of active participation of developing countries and recognizing the impact of plastic pollution in developing and least developed countries, particularly small island developing states; and the engagement of relevant stakeholders in the entire process, including international organizations, NGO's, academia, scientific community, private sector and the civil society as a whole.

Recommendations:

- Global objectives, goals and targets shall be prioritized, complemented by those regional or national nature. Paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Resolution 5/15 shall be the basis upon which thematic clusters are discusses.
- It could be envisaged the consideration of the adoption of progressive measures, which could be, implemented through concrete phases:
 - a) Elimination and reduction of the total volume of high-risk and leakage prone plastic products and materials;
 - b) Circulation and creation of closed loops for necessary plastic products; and,

- c) The safe collection, management and disposal of plastic products at the end of use, including ecosystems recovery. Such measures should also aim to eliminate hazardous and harmful and reduce unnecessary plastics, addressing human health, and environmental impact on food safety, biodiversity, and climate change, across the whole value chain, as well as its management, through a whole life-cycle approach.
- The above-mentioned idea encompasses a standalone cluster for the financial mechanisms, in which it's discussions should start from the beginning of the negotiations and never leaving this topic behind. The main goal is to find adequate means of the implementation of the treaty for developing countries, considering their full participation under the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

Basic contents of the future instrument:

- Delineation of objectives, definitions and timetables (early stage).
- Implementation mechanisms, approach to technological, social, and economic aspects, and financial and technical assistance.
- Consideration of human rights and public health, including the right to a healthy environment.
- Consider the varied and complex nature of plastic and plastic products, including with respect to the materials and chemicals used to manufacture them.
- Environmentally sound and effective solutions for the substitution of hazardous or harmful and unnecessary plastics.
- Ecuador endorsed the Ministerial Declaration from the Ministerial meeting that took place in Geneva, in September 2021. The Declaration contains suggestions for content for the instrument:
- <https://ministerialconferenceonmarinelitter.com/documents/index.php/>

Relevant stakeholders:

- Enhanced collaboration and coordination across the United Nations system and with other international organizations.
- Multistakeholders engagement during the whole process, including the environmental and financial communities, academia, scientific community, trade experts, private sector and civil society, including indigenous peoples and waste pickers.