



## Quaker United Nations Office

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### About us:

*This submission is from the Quaker United Nations Office in Geneva (QUNO), under the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC). We are an ECOSOC accredited civil society organization which has supported peace and justice efforts at the United Nations since the 1950s. Earlier, in 1947, FWCC co-received the Nobel Peace Prize.*

### **Andres Naranjo, QUNO Programme Associate for Sustainable and Just Economic Systems**

#### **Speaking to the INC-2 Closing Plenary Session**

**Friday, 02 June 2023 in Paris, France.**

Distinguished Chair, Dear Colleagues and Friends,

My name is Andres Naranjo. I am here on behalf of the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), a voice for Quakers around the globe.

At INC-2, we have witnessed the power of collective action. At the same time, we have noted the presence of powerful interests within the negotiation process, which could potentially cloud the pursuit of fair and equitable solutions. This intricate dance of influences calls for an elevated sense of responsibility among members to reevaluate these ties and firmly stand by their roles as custodians of public trust and wellbeing.

Addressing this plastic crisis calls for bravery. It involves more than just mitigating its effects; it requires us to confront its origins. One of the critical factors driving the overproduction of plastic is the financial incentives, like subsidies. Addressing these economic drivers should be a key part of the global strategy to end plastic pollution.

In pursuit of the Plastics Treaty, we strongly encourage members to remain committed to the spirit of UNEA 5/14 resolution. Strategies aimed at curtailing both the production and consumption of plastic must form the backbone of our approach. By shifting our attention upstream, we can aspire towards a future where we collectively reduce our dependence on plastics, both at the production and consumption level.

To that end, member states should implement firm rules, backed by strong trade restrictions that consider the full life cycle of plastics. Clear and stringent criteria for reusable and environmentally friendly alternatives must be set, supported by transparent disclosure about what comprises our plastics.

Recognizing the environmental and human health impacts of plastic pollution is an essential step. It is imperative to remember who suffers the most: local communities, indigenous peoples, waste collectors, women, and children. Member states should enforce robust requirements on chemical disclosure, empowering all actors in the value chain to make informed decisions to halt plastic pollution.

Support mechanisms for developing nations, particularly Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries, must be a priority. Despite their minimal contribution to plastic production, they bear a significant burden of the global plastic problem, which underscores the importance of our collective action and responsibility.

In navigating these critical issues, it is paramount for the collective body of INC to uphold the value of independent, scientific, and evidence-based methodologies. A commitment to transparency, regular reporting, and monitoring is essential. This approach will allow for accurate assessment of the success of strategies and facilitate necessary adjustments. By doing so, INC can ensure that the steps taken are not just well-intentioned but are also effectively guiding us towards our common goal.

As we prepare for INC-3, FWCC joins the global call for all stakeholders to intensify their sense of responsibility, commitment, and urgency. Our shared future depends on it.

Thank you.