

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

I want to take this opportunity to address the floor on behalf of GRULAC and outline our common position in several topics discussed during this OEWG.

Regarding the draft Rules of Procedure, we would like to reiterate our full support to the proposal that the Committee shall make every effort to reach agreement on all matters of substance by consensus and leave, as a last resort, the possibility of voting. We believe that limiting the decision making on an only consensus basis can jeopardize the aim to have an ambitious treaty. We further support updating the rules to reflect the inclusive process we agreed upon at UNEA 5.2.

GRULAC supports the idea to start discussion clustering the provisions listed in paragraphs 3 and 4 of UNEA decision 5/14 for the work of the INC. We regret not having time to properly discussed this issue in the OEWG. We understand that these work areas should encompass relevant aspects of the full lifecycle approach, including the up and downstream dimensions, innovative solutions to tackle plastic pollution, including existing plastic pollution in the marine environment, compliance, and most importantly a standalone cluster for the financial mechanism, and another for capacity-building and technology transfer. These clusters should be all discussed at INC, from the first session in a separated manner. We should like to ask the Secretariat to prepare for the first session an INF document on possible alternatives for defined work areas.

Our region also concurs with the proposal of a paper from the Secretariat for the first session presenting options for the structure of the future instrument, based on a call for submissions for possible discussion to be held in a first session among Parties including the factual compilation of the current structures of relevant MEAs, in particular those related to the management of chemicals and waste.

Moreover, we understand that the INC work could benefit from up-to-date scientific data on the prevalence and impacts of plastic pollution as well as on social-economics assessments, including information on main sources of production, transboundary flows of waste, among others, and initiatives on the sound management of plastic also identifying where there are gaps in such data and statistics.

Furthermore, an overview of scientific data on chemicals found in plastics and plastic products and their impacts on human health and the environment will also be beneficial in drawing synergies with existing MEAs such as the Stockholm Convention. Building on the important outcome we achieved in Nairobi in the chemicals cluster, most specifically within the resolution on the future intergovernmental scientific panel on chemicals, waste and pollution, we should also take this opportunity to provide information on the current challenges faced by developing countries in terms of measuring the various negative impacts of plastic pollution and to promote systemic change in the full lifecycle of plastics, both in land and in the marine environment. We would also support an INF document for the first session on relevant definitions and concepts, including a glossary.

As for the preparation for the multistakeholder dialogue, to be held in the context of first session, GRULAC would like to see academia, civil society and the private sector, health and labor sectors as well as informal workers represented and involved in the discussions, which should be structured as roundtables with guiding questions to allow for a concrete exchange of views, including those related to developing countries needs and capacities related to the management of plastic waste.

We will wait for the timetable proposal to be presented by the Secretariat, but we would like to support the option of 5 sessions, highlighting that the INC will have the prerogative to decide upon new sessions, if needed. The INC meetings should not clash with other relevant MEA negotiation

meetings, in order to not create any sort of limitation or additional burden to the participation of developing countries. We should like to emphasize the need for effective activity during the intersessional period, allowing time for regional consultations previous to each and every INC meeting.

Also, we favor in-person meetings, and we kindly request the proper financial support for as many delegates as possible, but at least two delegates per country, in order to guarantee attendance and more items to be negotiated in a parallel way, as well as the possibility of hybrid meetings, including the full participation of our experts that are online.

The documents of each session should be previously circulated ahead of the meetings allowing for feedback from member states. We reiterate our full support for in-person regional meetings before each INC and we take this opportunity to ask the UNEP Secretariat to help our region preparing the in-person consultation meeting for the first INC in November, as well as the subsequent ones.

GRULAC is also supportive of the idea to strengthen the UN headquarters in Kenya, which could be achieved with at least one of the INC meetings in Nairobi. Finally, we strongly support the offer made by Uruguay to host the INC-1, and we hope to see you there

Thank you very much.