

SPEECH ON BEHALF OF GRULAC

Mr. Chair

Thank you for giving me the floor, I make this intervention in my capacity as Chair of the Grulac Nairobi.

For GRULAC, the resolution UNEA5/14, which establishes an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, to prepare an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including the marine environment, was one of the most important outcomes of the UNEA5. As you are all aware, at UNEA5.2. many countries in our region co-sponsored the resolution proposed by Peru and Rwanda with several GRULAC's delegates playing an active supporting role in the negotiation process of the final resolution.

For our regional group, it is essential to advance an ambitious agenda to reduce plastic pollution worldwide, with specific consideration always being given to national circumstances and capabilities of our member states.

For this reason, our region considers that the text that will emerge from the Negotiating Committee must take into consideration the full validity and applicability of the Rio's principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, for us it is a *sine qua non-requirement*; that the new treaty that is going to be negotiated establishes the obligation for developed countries to provide means of implementation for developing countries; such as financing, capacity building, and technology transfer. Without this support, many developing countries will not be able to implement the provisions that this new agreement will generate.

Also, it is important to establish clear mechanisms to efficiently include all relevant stakeholders and to engage their full participation during the whole process. For that reason, we also consider that is vital that one of the multiple realities of our region be duly reflected in the agreement, that is, the existence of many grassroots waste pickers and informal workers who have been already contributing to the fight against plastic pollution and, so it is essential that their role be specifically and adequately reflected in the application of the future international treaty.

On the organization of work of the INC, we would like to emphasize our preliminary common positions. Firstly, we need to guarantee full and inclusive participation of all developing countries in the process, particularly through support for the in-person attendance. Mirroring previous multilateral negotiations under the UNEP auspices, GRULAC is also of the view that we should keep consensus as the basis of decision-making in the INC but to agree upon a possibility of a vote as a last resort. Thirdly, while prioritizing the elements underlined in paragraphs 3 and 4 of resolution 5/14, the discussions on means of implementation for developing countries, especially on the financial mechanism, shall be advanced in every meeting of the INC. And as we stressed at UNEA5.2., the INC process should be taken as an opportunity to strengthen the role of UN headquarters in Nairobi as the lieu par excellence of multilateral environmental debates.

Considering these brief but crucial considerations, we must not lose sight of the need to appropriately balance the environmental, economic, and social dimensions of the challenge that lies ahead, thus reflecting and anchoring the concept of Sustainable Development.

Throughout the whole process of negotiations, we should integrate a human rights approach that needs to be present in the outcome. We would like to emphasize the prevention dimension of plastic pollution and the need to reduce the negative impacts on human health as well as the broad exposure of workers and consumers to hazardous chemicals throughout the lifecycle.

Mr Chair,

We express our full support to Antigua and Barbuda and to Ecuador and Peru as GRULAC'S representatives in the Bureau of the OEWG and the INC, respectively.

Finally, we reiterate the commitment of our region to continue leading the negotiation process, and therefore we hope that GRULAC, can exercise the chairmanship of the INC bureau.

Thank you, Mr. President.