

June 1st, 2023 _ PHILIPPINES/GAIA

Contact Group #2.

Thank you Mr. co-cofacilitator.

I am Ana Rocha speaking on behalf of GAIA, a global network of 1000 organizations in 92 countries.

On **just transition**, the treaty must establish a mechanism to ensure a fair, equitable and inclusive transition, including livelihood and health security, recognition and inclusion, for waste pickers, workers in cooperative settings and other affected workers and communities such as informal workers employed across the life cycle of plastics, indigenous peoples, rural communities and urban poor who bear the disproportionate cost of plastic pollution). In this regard, I refer you to the International Alliance of Waste Pickers' recommendations on the Options Paper .

We would also like to emphasize the overarching principle of **environmental and social justice**, upholding the rights of frontline and affected communities to health, to a clean environment, to information, to meaningful participation and consultation in decisions to build or expand production, waste-management or other facilities along the lifecycle of plastics.

Regarding **financial assistance**, GAIA supports the creation of **a dedicated fund** covering incremental compliance costs through grants, covering institutional strengthening, policy development, **just transition funding for waste workers** (reskilling, access to capital & equipment), and funding for establishing **reuse systems**. Waste-management technologies that are **not** environmentally sound, safe for human health and just (e.g. incineration including in cement kilns, "chemical recycling", waste-to-energy), and plastics alternatives that are **not** sustainable (e.g. single-use bio-based plastics) **must not be financed**.

Regarding **other sources of finance**, taxes, levies and EPR can channel private sector finance sources for national governments. However, carbon or plastic credits and offset schemes should be avoided to avoid greenwashing of plastic production, plastic pollution and polluting waste management.

On **capacity building, technical cooperation and technology transfer**, GAIA recommends non-duplication of existing resources provided by the Global Environmental Facility, the Basel Convention and other international agencies.

Do no harm must be the guiding principle: treaty provisions must include technical criteria to ensure that there is no funding or dissemination of technologies or alternatives that harm the environment and planetary boundaries, human health or human rights.

Thank you for your attention