

Statement/Comments on Item 4: Barriers to combating marine litter and micro plastics discussion on 29th May 2018

Thank you, co-chair,

I speak on behalf of Children and Youth, Farmers, Indigenous Peoples, NGO, Science & Technology, Trade Unions & Workers and Women Major Groups

We note that in addition to barriers already listed by previous speakers: Externalization of the real human and environmental health costs of plastic pollution to governments and society at large is lacking and represents a major financial barrier to address the issue. As mentioned in UNEA 3 resolution, extended producer responsibility schemes are one way to address this.

We also would like to note the rise in investment in false solutions (e.g. plastic-to-fuel, chemical recycling), represents a major financial barrier undermining safe and sustainable full life cycle management of plastics.

Another concern from the workers is the possibility of the loss of jobs in a sector where thousands of women and youths are currently employed. If consideration is not given to employment we may remove one environmental problem and replace it with another serious social problem.

We therefore call for the application of the principle of **JUST TRANSITION** in our efforts to solve this problem. Concrete measures should put into place to ensure creation of alternative green and decent jobs. A shift to a plastic free world should be

based on the principles of social justice and respect of the right of women, youths and others to employment.

- THANK YOU-