

To:

Abya Yala network for the reduction of plastic production with binding global goals, on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean organizations

Aotearoa Plastic Pollution Alliance (AppA)

Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact, Society of Native Nations and Indigenous Peoples and Their Communities

Major Group to the Major Group Facilitating Committee

Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA)

International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)

International Alliance of Waste Pickers

Women's Major Group to UNEP

Scientists' Coalition for an Effective Plastics Treaty

Dear colleagues,

At its meeting on 20 February 2025, the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) considered the letters received from your organizations.

We consider the participation of observers from a wide range of relevant stakeholders as crucial for the negotiations process. Their important role is recognized in UNEA resolution 5/14 that established the process.

We welcome and encourage contributions from a wide range of stakeholders to the process and are determined to promote all possible efforts supporting their access during the upcoming second part of the fifth session of the INC, in a manner consistent with the draft rules of procedure provisionally applied to the work of the INC and applicable United Nations rules. In addition, we recognize the valuable support and expertise provided by observers to Members of the Committee.

We are aware that the objective physical limitations of meeting space and the continuously increasing number of observers at INC sessions may necessitate additional arrangements to facilitate observer access to meeting rooms. We also encourage observer organizations to consider how to organize themselves so as to facilitate representative participation in meetings for their respective constituencies.

It is important that time is provided for interventions by observers in opening and closing plenaries of the Committee and all efforts will be made to provide for such time as well as observer presence in meeting rooms. We also invite continued discussions and active communication between Observers and Members of the Committee to foster meaningful collaborations and sharing of expertise, which can benefit the process.

In our discussions, we also considered the issue of meetings held in an informal setting. Informal meetings limited to Member-only consultations and drafting groups play an important role in negotiations, are a well-established practice in UN processes, and are in line with the INC draft rules of procedure. Some form of such informal meetings is likely to be required in the work of the INC. At the

same time, communication with all participants on the purpose and outcomes of such meetings is important, and the Bureau is committed to ensuring transparency by providing timely updates on the purpose and outcomes of informal meetings, while respecting the confidentiality required for effective negotiations.

We recognize that multiple observers raised the lack of transparency in the process as a concern and we intend to address the concern moving forward. We wish to thank observer organizations for bringing their concerns to our attention. Observer participation will continue to be guided by the draft rules of procedure provisionally applied to the work of the INC, ensuring a fair and consistent approach to their involvement. As the Bureau, we will continue working on ways to facilitate both observer participation and communication with observers in the lead up to and during INC 5.2.

Sincerely,

Bureau of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution

Mr. Vayas Valdivieso (Chair of the INC)
Ms. Juliet Kabera (Vice-Chair of the INC)
Mr. Ndiaye Cheikh Sylla (Vice-Chair of the INC)
Mr. Hiroshi Ono (Vice-Chair of the INC)
Mr. Mohammed Albarrak (Vice-Chair of the INC)
Mr. Harry Liiv (Vice-Chair of the INC)
Ms. Irma Gurguliani (Vice-Chair of the INC)
Mr. Gustavo Meza-Cuadra Velasquez (Vice-Chair of the INC)
Ms. Asha Challenger (Vice-Chair of the INC)
Ms. Johanna Lissinger-Peitz (Vice-Chair of the INC)
Ms. Larke Williams (Vice-Chair of the INC)

Cc:

Ms Jyoti Mathur-Filipp, Executive Secretary of the INC Secretariat