



Agenda item 4 - OHCHR Statement to the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC4)

April 2024

Check against delivery

Muchas gracias señor Presidente,

The catastrophic impacts of corporate greed and unsustainable, unprincipled production of plastics have been documented so thoroughly that there is no longer any doubt as to the extent to which plastics are undermining our common future.

A plastics treaty centered in human rights is a matter of legal obligation and will create better conditions for action and accountability. Such a treaty should:

- 1) Prioritize prevention of pollution with caps on plastic polymer production, as well as toxic-free upstream solutions, like reuse, to reduce supply and demand of plastics.
- 2) Ensure access to remedy for people and communities that have suffered harms, including from transboundary impacts.
- 3) Make information accessible and available including through mandatory disclosure requirements for businesses, so we can end corporate efforts to suppress evidence of the harmful impacts of plastics.
- 4) Enact mandatory human rights due diligence laws, aligned with the UNGPs on Business and Human Rights.
- 5) Take effective measures to address the historically disproportionate impact of plastic pollution on Indigenous Peoples, frontline communities and waste pickers, including from legacy pollution. Listen to them.
- 6) Align action to address plastic pollution with the best available scientific evidence and the precautionary principle. Science has showed us how plastics in the environment break down into micro- and nanoparticles, irretrievable and irreversible. Waste management alone will not get us out of this crisis.
- 7) Establish just transition programmes, ensuring that workers, including waste pickers, and communities affected throughout the plastics lifecycle are protected.

- 8) Operationalize the principles of equity and polluters-pay including through capacity-building, technical assistance, technology transfer and resource mobilization supported by those most responsible for the plastics crisis for the benefit of those most affected.

Any person that is given a choice, will chose nature over destruction. Delegates here today have the chance to design measures to end plastic pollution and give all people everywhere a chance to enjoy the benefits of development and a life with dignity.

Thank you.