



## Quaker United Nations Office

13 Avenue du Mervelet  
CH-1209 Geneva, Switzerland

Tel +41 (22) 748-4800

Fax +41 (22) 748-4819

### INC-5 Open Plenary Statement

#### About us:

*This submission is from the Quaker United Nations Office in Geneva (QUNO), under the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC). We are an ECOSOC accredited civil society organization which has supported peace and justice efforts at the United Nations since the 1950s. Earlier, in 1947, FWCC co-received the Nobel Peace Prize.*

25 November 2024

Distinguished Chair, esteemed delegates, colleagues, and members of the INC Secretariat,

My name is Andrés Naranjo, and I speak today on behalf of the Friends World Committee for Consultation, representing Quakers worldwide.

As we gather here in Busan for the final round of negotiations, we stand at a critical juncture in history. The mandate set forth by UNEA Resolution 5/14 challenges us to deliver a legally binding treaty that addresses plastic pollution in all its dimensions, from its devastating impact on ecosystems to its far-reaching consequences for human health and equity. The work accomplished thus far reflects tireless dedication and collaboration, and for this, I extend my deepest gratitude to the Chair, the Secretariat, and all parties engaged in this process.

Yet, as we begin this pivotal session, I must stress the importance of ambition. This treaty must not only mitigate the symptoms of the plastic crisis but tackle its root causes. One of the most entrenched drivers of plastic pollution lies in the economic forces that fuel unsustainable production and consumption—chief among them, subsidies for primary plastic polymer production.

Our recently released report, *Plastic Money: Turning Off the Subsidies Tap (Phase 2)*, provides vital context:

- In 2024, global subsidies to polymer production are estimated at **USD 45 billion**, a figure projected to escalate to **USD 78 billion by 2050** if left unchecked.
- These subsidies incentivize the very production patterns that this treaty aims to transform, perpetuating ecological harm and undermining global equity.
- Critically, removing subsidies could reduce production volumes significantly, particularly in high-subsidy economies, with minimal price impact on consumers—less than 1% for most plastic-containing products.

Subsidies, however, are just one piece of a broader puzzle. For this treaty to deliver meaningful change, it must include binding commitments that align with the highest levels of ambition. We urge the incorporation of the following essential elements:

- Time-bound commitments to reduce primary plastic polymers and tackle unsustainable production and consumption patterns at their source.
- Comprehensive measures addressing plastics from extraction through disposal, prioritizing upstream interventions.
- Enforceable timelines to eliminate single-use plastics and hazardous chemicals.
- Transparent and equitable measures to address trade in plastics, ensuring fair implementation while avoiding market distortions.

At its core, this treaty must be rooted in justice. Indigenous Peoples, frontline communities, and future generations are disproportionately bearing the consequences of our inaction. Their voices and rights must be at the forefront of this process. The treaty must recognize and protect the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, aligning human rights with environmental stewardship.

Distinguished delegates, now is the time for ambition to meet the urgency of the planet's plight. The treaty we craft here will echo through generations, defining whether we chose to confront this crisis with courage and resolve.

Let us not squander this historic opportunity. Let us deliver a treaty that reflects the vision and determination needed to end plastic pollution and secure a sustainable future for all.

Thank you.



Andres Naranjo,  
Associate Representative,  
Sustainable and Just Economic Systems  
QUNO