



Agenda item 4 - OHCHR Statement to the second part of the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC5.2)

5 August 2025

Thank you, Chair

The catastrophic human rights impacts of unsustainable, unprincipled plastic production are undeniable and pose an unacceptable risk to our shared future.

In its recent advisory opinion on climate change, the International Court of Justice found that States have a duty to prevent significant harm to the environment now and in the future.

An ambitious treaty addressing the full lifecycle of plastics must advance human rights, including the right to a healthy environment. This can be achieved through:

- 1) A just transition that upholds human rights and benefits people disproportionately affected by plastic production and pollution and by measures to address it.
- 2) Control of chemicals of concern in plastics, and safeguards against substitutions that could lead to further harm.
- 3) Reduction targets for plastic polymer production, the promotion of toxic-free upstream solutions like reuse, and addressing legacy pollution.
- 4) Mandatory disclosure of health and safety information related to plastic production, data on emissions, releases of pollutants and quantities of plastics produced.
- 5) Equitable and affordable access by all States to environmentally sustainable technologies, with robust mechanisms to protect scientific inquiry against conflicts of interest.
- 6) A transparent and adequately resourced financial mechanism to support equitable implementation of the treaty.

The Plastics Treaty should reflect human rights obligations by explicitly integrating human rights into article 10 on just transition.

The human right to participation must also be upheld at INC 5.2.

It is necessary that decisions are made in a transparent, inclusive and accountable manner, with the participation of observers.

The environment is the foundation for human life. Delegates here today have the chance to design measures to end plastic pollution, advance sustainable development, and uphold human rights.

Thank you.