Statement from the Women’s Working Group regarding inclusion of all Major Groups in the INC process

4/29/2024

Distinguished Chair, Member States Delegates, Observers,

My name is Laura Plascencia speaking on behalf of the Women’s Working Group on Ending Plastics Pollution. Our group stresses the urgent need to address impacts of plastics across the plastics lifecycle from fossil fuel extraction to disposal, dispelling the notion that plastics save lives. We advocate for bans on intentionally-added and non-intentional microbeads, and microplastics within the treaty text to safeguard health, the environment and other issues such as climate change and biodiversity.

Chemicals of concern in plastics are derived from recycled plastics necessitating stringent regulations. We demand the inclusion of the precautionary principle when considering hazardous chemicals of concern.

Regarding stakeholder engagement, since the Earth Summit in 1992, major groups have played a crucial role in advancing sustainable development agendas. Their diverse voices represent the grassroots perspectives essential for informed policymaking. Bringing diversity to decision-making spaces is a form of capacity building that strengthens the process and makes it inclusive.

We advocate for the unequivocal recognition and inclusion of the nine major groups within the INC process. We need secure seats for major groups, to ensure the voices of those in the most vulnerable situations, including children and youth, women, indigenous people, farmers and others disproportionately impacted by plastics, can participate in decision-making processes in ways that are meaningful. This includes having a say in the design, implementation, and monitoring of action plans.

Our position also calls for a comprehensive treaty ensuring transparency throughout the plastics lifecycle. Consumers need to know what the composition of products is in order to make sustainable consumption decisions. We must act decisively to safeguard health and the environment.

In closing, we urge delegates to prioritize health and transparency in crafting a robust plastics treaty that protects human well-being from the pervasive impacts of plastics.

Thank you,

Laura Plascencia

Just Transition Alliance