

Statement to INC-5.2 – On Behalf of the West Asia Region

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Your Excellency, Distinguished Delegates, and Members of the Secretariat,

Thank you for the opportunity to deliver this intervention on behalf of the Major Groups and Stakeholders of the **West Asia Region**.

Our region continues to face **significant and growing impacts** from plastic pollution—across land, rivers, coasts, and marine ecosystems. From microplastics contaminating our waters to burning plastic waste in open areas, the consequences of inaction are threatening not only the environment, but **public health, food security, and the human right to a clean and healthy environment**.

We therefore:

- ▶ **Urge Member States to adopt a strong, legally binding instrument** that is science-based, human rights-centered, and effective across the **entire lifecycle of plastics**—from extraction to waste.
- ▶ **Call for global targets and timelines** that include the **phasing out of unnecessary, single-use and non-recyclable plastics**, and restrictions on hazardous chemical additives.
- ▶ **Affirm the need for just transition policies** that protect **informal waste workers** and empower vulnerable communities—including **women, youth, and local recyclers**—to participate meaningfully in circular economies.
- ▶ **Recognize that countries in West Asia bear an unequal burden** of transboundary plastic waste, often without the infrastructure or regulatory mechanisms to manage it. We call for **equity, technology transfer, and international support** in implementation.

Furthermore, we emphasize the importance of:

- **Extended producer responsibility (EPR)** and accountability across global supply chains.
- **Transparency and traceability** in plastic production, trade, and chemical composition.
- Strong provisions on **capacity-building, regional cooperation**, and access to financing for sustainable alternatives.

Finally, we echo the voices of civil society across West Asia who continue to lead community clean-ups, education campaigns, and zero-waste initiatives under difficult conditions. **We ask you to protect their rights, recognize their efforts, and ensure inclusive participation** throughout this process.

Let INC-5.2 be a turning point toward a **plastic-free future**, rooted in **justice, sustainability, and solidarity**. West Asia stands ready to collaborate, implement, and drive meaningful change.

Thank you.