

BVRio observer statement INC-2

BVRio supports the goals of the INC to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

Having created the world's first Reverse Logistics Credits system, for over a decade BVRio has worked to create financial mechanisms and initiatives which promote better and more inclusive waste collection and recycling practices to improve livelihoods for waste pickers and strengthen the circular economy.

It is with this insight that we offer our view that informal waste pickers must be recognised as a fundamental part of the instruments designed to accelerate the collection of plastics for recycling, especially plastics already in the environment.

It is true that we cannot recycle our way out of plastic pollution, however until such time as there are instruments in place to stop and stem the flow of plastic into the environment, it will remain necessary to recover and recycle. In the millions of waste pickers globally, we already have the expertise and workforce able to undertake this task, and the financial mechanisms, such as plastic credits, in place to be able to provide traceable and validated data to producers and countries, in order to meet the requirements of Extended Producer Responsibility legislation now and in the future.

As we heard, we share our view with the many countries where waste pickers operate, and we are in no doubt that the funding and coordination of informal waste pickers can result in an immediate increase in plastic recycling rates, resulting in improvements to the health of land and marine ecosystems.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute.

BVRio Brasil
BVRio UK