13 November, 2023

The third session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC-3)

*Opening Statement of Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO*

Thank you, Mr. President, I am speaking on behalf of ESDO a participating organization of IPEN, BFFP and GAIA.

In constructing the future treaty, the principal focus should be on mitigating plastic pollution across its entire life cycle. A phased reduction in both plastic production and consumption is necessary, and recycling should not be relied on as a solution. The Zero draft should act as a starting point for negotiations for Member States, with the focus on clarifying obligations and refining the text instead of rehashing discussions on the scope of the treaty. The existing scope outlined in UNEA Resolution 4/15, covering the full life cycle, should remain intact.

Additionally, the treaty should encompass provisions addressing chemicals, emissions, trade, and transparency. The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee ought to engage in intersessional work to compile a list of concerning chemicals, including monomers and polymers, for inclusion in the treaty's Annexes, accompanied by well-defined criteria for their selection. Retaining and further developing the treaty's Annexes is crucial to ensure adaptability to evolving knowledge, innovation, and challenges. Moreover, control measures should prioritize minimizing plastic production and endorsing the development of plastic-free products, routing for banning recycling, as it poses risks such as worker exposure to toxic chemicals, the release of microplastics, and the dissemination of toxic substances through products made from recycled plastics.

I thank you Mr. President.

Siddika Sultana
Executive Director
ESDO