CLOSING STATEMENT

GRULAC

Second Session of the INC2 Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee

Paris, June 2, 2023

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

On behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, I express our sincerest appreciation to you for the very effective conduct of the second session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee INC2. Likewise, we reiterate our great appreciation to the Republic of France, for its generosity and hospitality in hosting this meeting.

We thank the co-facilitators of the two contact groups for conducting the work to review the document of potential options for elements towards a legally binding instrument based on Resolution 5/14 of the United Nations Environment Assembly. We also convey our appreciation to the cofacilitators of the informal consultations on the way forward.

Both contact groups addressed substantive issues, that are envisioned to comprise the future legally binding instrument on plastic pollution. This exercise was very fruitful and constructive, resulting in guidance to inform the development of the zero draft, which we have just heard in the summaries of the co-facilitators.

The GRULAC deeply regrets that the substantive discussions during the INC-2 had such a delayed start. Nevertheless, we commend the parties involved for their unwavering commitment, working diligently and persistently until late hours of the night, all sharing a common objective: ending plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

We have consistently emphasized in this forum that plastic pollution is an enormous challenge, at the global, regional and national levels, negatively affecting ecosystems, sustainable development, and the enjoyment of human rights to health and to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.
For these reasons, GRULAC reiterates that the region is committed to this process and to advancing constructive negotiations to achieve our goal of a legally binding international instrument on plastic pollution, including the marine environment. In light of this, we urge all Members of the Committee to engage in substantive work during the intersessional period, that takes into account the best available science, the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in preparation for INC3. We also call for regional preparatory meetings ahead of INC3.

Finally, GRULAC welcomes the mandate given to the Chair to prepare a zero draft of the instrument with assistance of the Secretariat, for its consideration at the third session of the Committee. GRULAC is confident that this road map is absolutely necessary if we are to have a treaty within the ambitious time frame that set in UNEA 5/14.