Closing Statement

Group of Latin America and the Caribbean Countries (GRULAC)
Third Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee (INC-3)

November 19, 2023
Nairobi, Kenya

Mr. Chair,

I am honored to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean Countries (GRULAC).

We wish to thank the Government and people of the Republic of Kenya for their warm hospitality and to express our heartfelt gratitude to Chair Amb. Gustavo Meza Cuadra, for the progress achieved during three sessions under his guidance. We also thank his team for their leadership, which greatly contributed to the significant progress at this session; and to the INC Secretariat and our Co-facilitators for tackling the arduous task of getting us to this juncture today.

We welcome the substantive discussions we had throughout the week as well as the agreement that the revised draft from the INC-3 will be the basis for our work at the INC-4.

The region also takes this opportunity to re-emphasize that we fully recognize that plastic pollution is a global and multifaceted problem, with environmental, socioeconomic and health dimensions. Therefore, we are happy that there is broad convergence within the Committee to advocate for a just and inclusive transition for all affected populations and groups in vulnerable situations, especially women, children, Indigenous Peoples, workers, waste pickers and other workers in informal and cooperative settings. We are especially grateful with their constructive engagement and contributions to this process.

Additionally, our region remains committed to the promotion and protection of Human Rights as a cross-cutting guiding principle for the interpretation and implementation of the instrument; together with a gender perspective; inter- and intra-generational equity; non-discrimination; access to Information, transparency and accountability; coherence among existing MEAs and the use of the best available science, traditional knowledge, knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local knowledge systems.
GRULAC is firmly of the view that intersessional work in this process is critical and as such, we regret not arriving at agreement, but we will continue working for its achievement on critical areas of interest, including Means of implementation. We are confident that intersessional work will deliver knowledge and information that would benefit the Committee throughout the negotiation to make the best decisions, while also helping to tackle the necessities of developing countries, taking into account the specific needs and special circumstances of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), which are disproportionately affected by the plastic pollution crisis in spite of contributing very little to its creation.

GRULAC would like to reiterate our dedication to developing an ambitious and effective International Legally Binding Instrument to end plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, with the view to protect human health and the environment.

Furthermore, we would like to welcome the incoming Chair who is also from our region, Amb. Luis Vayas Valdivieso, we pledge our support to you in your stewardship of this important process, as we endeavor to end plastic pollution. Ambassador, we wish you every success in this task.

Colleagues, GRULAC stands ready to continue our active and constructive engagement in this process, so that we can realize our collective goal as set out in the UN Resolution 5/14.

I thank you.