Check against delivery

Thank you Chair. I speak on behalf of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

All States have obligations to respect, protect and fulfil human rights. This extends to protecting people from foreseeable and preventable human rights harms caused by all forms of environmental degradation, including plastic pollution. INC should focus on outcomes that advance human rights. Any other approach, including attempts to disregard the best available scientific evidence to advance other interests, is a distraction.

OHCHR welcomes the zero draft as a basis for negotiations at INC3 and would like to share some recommendations to strengthen the text:

1. **Plastic pollution is a global crisis that requires** legally binding provisions instead of voluntary or nationally determined approaches. A treaty can have binding obligations while recognizing different development stages and capabilities of its Parties (see, for example, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights).

2. **In view of protecting the right to health and a healthy environment, the draft should prioritize waste hierarchy over an unclear concept of circularity or circular economy.**

3. **Businesses are responsible for creating massive volumes of plastic pollution and waste, yet their responsibilities are not referenced in the draft. These responsibilities, including human rights due diligence should be reflected in the new treaty.**

4. **Ensure that the human rights impacts of plastic alternatives are assessed.**
5. **The rights to participation, access to information and access to justice in environmental matters are not adequately reflected in the text.** There are no formal mechanisms to ensure the participation of rights holders in periodic assessments. Reference to access to information fails to ensure full transparency related to health and safety information. There is no reference to access to justice and remedies.

6. **The new treaty must protect the right to science, including Indigenous Peoples’ rights to their knowledge, practices and innovations.** The establishment of a Science-Policy Interface needs to fiercely protect scientific inquiry against conflicts of interest, greenwashing and misleading claims related to plastic pollution, drawing from relevant practices like those of the Stockholm Convention Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee.

7. The treaty must make clear that a **just transition applies to the entire lifecycle of plastics** and requires safeguarding the rights of workers, including in informal sectors, their communities, Indigenous Peoples and people in vulnerable situations.

In closing, at INC 3 States must confront the serious global plastic pollution crisis and commit to a higher level of ambition, articulating a vision to protect human health and the environment that is grounded in human rights.

I thank you.