Part II – 10. Trade in listed chemicals, polymers and products, and in plastic waste

Panama’s plastic consumption and market model heavily rely on imports. Establishing customs criteria, controls and export limits for listed chemicals, polymers and products, and plastic waste is crucial for us. It’s imperative to mandate the enhancement of the use of international trading HS codes for transboundary movements of plastics and their associated chemicals. Additionally, communication throughout the supply chain and with civil society through labeling and databases.

Moreover, this instrument provides an opportunity to foster coherence among existing MEAs, including the Basel, Stockholm, Rotterdam Convention, and SAICM. This aims to create synergies and avoid duplication of work, particularly concerning the transboundary movement of plastic waste. Note that this provision should operate in close synergy with the proposed transparency, traceability, monitoring, and labeling provisions of Provision 13.

The data gathered through this process holds immense valuable. It will provide a foundation for making more informed decisions, such as investments in treatment infrastructure, offering greater certainty regarding the viability, required resources and necessary installed capacity, and type of treatment, among other factors.

Building a robust foundation in this future treaty, as outlined in provisions 1 to 7, trade would be centered on safe plastic products to prevent and control plastic pollution, based on a life-cycle approach of plastics. Under this circular approach, all players in the plastics value chain, including extraction, design, production, consumption, treatment, and final disposal, will be aligned.

Therefore, these measures will provide guidelines for the enhanced prevention of contamination.

Part II – 11. Existing plastic pollution, including in the marine environment

In the context of Panama, the implementation of comprehensive bundles of measures is crucial for safeguarding and remediating the marine environment. This not only involves leveraging existing national and global capacities but also creating opportunities for innovation and the exchange of practical technologies and methodologies. This approach is applicable across different sections of the document, such as the prior point addressing fishing gear.

Furthermore, it is imperative to precisely define measures, such as "safe and environmentally sound remediation activities," within the document to provide clarity and a shared understanding. This ensures the effective implementation and communication of strategies aimed at protecting and rehabilitating the marine environment.

1. **Parties WILL TAKE ACTIONS and shall cooperate to:**
   a. **EVALUATION, IDENTIFICATION AND PRIORITIZATION OF accumulation zones, critical points and sectors:**
I. most affected by existing plastic pollution, including in the marine environment; and

II. That EVALUATIONS IDENTIFY ACCUMULATION AREAS WITH QUANTITIES AND TYPES OF GARBAGE THAT REPRESENT A THREAT to species or habitats, taking into account the complete life cycle of plastics.

- adopt effective mitigation and remediation measures, including clean-up activities in identified accumulation areas, hotspots and CRITICAL sectors, taking into account the provisions of international agreements in force, including those relating to the conservation and the sustainable use of marine biological diversity, including in areas located outside national jurisdiction; and
- promote engagement of the local population and citizens in safe and environmentally sound remediation activities.

2. Each Party should make publicly available information on common plastic pollution types and practices and behaviors that lead to plastic pollution, to raise awareness and prevent

3. The measures taken to implement the provisions of this Article shall be reflected in the national plan communicated pursuant to [part IV.1 on national plans].

4. The governing body* shall, at its first session, adopt:
- indicators to identify accumulation zones, hotspots and sectors; and
- guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices, developed on the basis of best available science, to address existing plastic pollution, with a view to ensuring the cleanup activities do not have potential for negative impacts on the environment, biodiversity and human health.

Reporting and implementation measures can significantly contribute in this regard. It is essential for each Party to furnish this information to the Secretariat, which will then compile and disseminate publicly accessible reports based on the provided data.

Part II – 12. Just transition

Panama support the submission presented as GRULAC on this regards.

Part II – 13. Transparency, tracking, monitoring and labelling

1. Each Party shall:

   - require producers and importers to disclose harmonized information on the chemical composition of all plastics and plastic products throughout their life cycle;
   - take appropriate measures to ensure the traceability of chemicals, polymers and the plastic contents of products throughout the life cycle of plastics and plastic products, based on guidelines to be adopted by the governing body* at its first session, in particular for the purposes of their safe and environmentally sound use, recycling and disposal; and
   - establish marking and labelling requirements based on guidance to be adopted by the governing body* at its first session, in particular for the purposes of the safe and environmentally sound use, recycling and disposal of plastics and plastic products.

2. Each Party shall monitor and track the types and volumes of its production, imports and exports of chemicals and polymers used in the production of plastic polymers, plastics and plastic products, and regulated plastic products across their life cycle.

3. Each Party shall report the information collected pursuant to paragraph 2, together with information on the recycling facilities functioning within its territory, in a standardized format to the governing body.

In provision 1, paragraph A, we propose that the text explicitly states the requirement for making this harmonized information publicly available.
We recommend including guidelines for **marking and labeling requirements** in an annex that undergoes periodic updates to align with the latest advancements in scientific knowledge.

Panama proposes the addition of a new provision, **numbered as 4**, which should encompass the following:

4. Each Party is mandated to monitor and track the types and volumes of its production, imports, and exports of chemicals and polymers employed in the manufacturing of plastic polymers, plastics, and plastic products, including regulated plastic items, throughout their life cycle.