Statement of the Republic de Panama – Contact Group 1

Part I – Objectives

Panama advocate for an objective that considers the mandates of UNEA Resolution 5/14 and the necessary inclusion of considering the protection of human health and the environment resulting from plastic pollution through the full life cycle of plastic.

By this, we support Option 1 with the inclusion of the sub-options: 1.2 of option 2, as reads:

*The objective of this instrument is to end plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, and to protect human health and the environment, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastic.*

Part II – 1. Primary plastic polymers

Panama advocate for Option 1, while it may be more appropriate to use "Parties" instead of "each Party" in the text, also we could support the addition of some common provision.

1. Parties shall take the necessary measures to prevent and mitigate the potential for adverse impacts on human health AND the environment from the production of primary plastic polymers, including their feedstocks and precursors.

2. Each Party shall not allow its level of production and supply of primary plastic polymers to exceed the reduction target specified in part I of annex

The excessive production of plastic has led to a massive accumulation of plastic waste in our oceans, rivers and soil, generating an irreversible environmental impact. Limiting plastic production is not only a necessary measure to address plastic pollution, but it is also a crucial step towards a more sustainable future.

We shall seek for an ambitious instrument that considers measures for important control in the production, extraction and use of primary plastic polymers.

Part II – 2. Chemicals and polymers of concern

We support Option 1, which sets clear legally binding obligations, covering both the use of chemicals in production of plastics, and the chemicals/polymers contained in the plastics themselves.

1. Each Party shall take the necessary measures to not allow and to PROGRESSIVELY eliminate, at the latest by the dates provided in part II of annex A, the use of the chemicals, groups of chemicals and polymers listed in part II of annex A6 in the production of plastic polymers, plastics and plastic products, except as provided in that annex.

2. Each Party shall take the necessary measures to not allow and to PROGRESSIVELY eliminate, at the latest by the dates provided in part II of annex A, the production, sale, distribution, import or export of plastic polymers, plastics and plastic products containing a chemical, group of chemicals, or polymer listed in part II of annex A, except as provided in that annex.
In addition, we could support the inclusion of the provision options.

Provisions to eliminate and restrict avoidable and problematic plastic products, including intentionally added microplastics, are a key pillar of an effective treaty to end plastic pollution. These controls will need to apply to production, export, import and consumption.

We consider is essential to structured a formal intersessional work to deliberate, analyze and formulate perspective and criteria, from independent science, interdisciplinary experts and the academia, while taking into consideration geographic and gender balance. These include technical considerations linked to criteria for additives, chemicals and polymers of concern, along with problematic plastic products.

Panama support the inclusion of measures that help to strength the application of other frameworks such as the WHO Framework Convention on Tabaco control.

Part II – 3. Problematic and avoidable plastic products, including short-lived and single-use plastic products and intentionally added microplastics

We support Options 1 on both sections a and b, as it has clear obligations that can be implemented.

Panama advocate for the implementation of rigorous and enforceable controls in the production and use of problematic and avoidable Plastic Products, including short-lived and single-use plastic products. Additionally, we must identify, control and progressively eliminate and restrict production including added microplastics.

On this regard, we recognize the need to apply specific definitions of terms like “problematic and avoidable plastic products” and “short-lived and single-use plastic products” to strengthen this set of provisions. In addition, the important to stablish the proper intersessional work based on scientific experts and the academia.

Part II – 4. Exemptions available to a Party upon request

It is crucial that the INC outlines the procedure for granting exemptions, including the responsible decision-making authority and the prerequisites for seeking an exemption.