THIRD SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATION COMMITTEE (INC3) TO DEVELOP A LEGAL BINDING INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENT ON PLASTIC POLLUTION, INCLUDING IN THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Declaration of the Republic de Panama – Contact Group 3

Scope, Preamble, Definitions and Principles

INC-3. Nairobi, Kenia. November 14, 2023

Thank you Mr. Co-facilitator,

First of all we congratulate you both co-facilitators on the hard work done at the preparatory meeting and the coordination on this contact group, now, we will proceed through each of the suggested topics.

As some other delegations also point out, we consider that the scope of application should be based on the provisions of UNEA Resolution 5/14, which refers the need to address actions that cover the entire life cycle of plastics.

On the preamble, we reiterate our support of the submission provided by GRULAC. Where we recognizing the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right; recalling the United Nations conference on sustainable development, among others.

When talking about definitions, Panama recognize the importance of defining terms to guarantee clarity in the treaty’s implementation. Moreover, we acknowledge the need of strengthen these definitions through technical work as part of the intersessional process with a technical and science approach. To kick start this, we propose drawing from existing international definitions that are related to this process. There are some definitions we believe should be included and detailed, such as, not limited to, Plastics, Resins, Mixed plastics, Recycled plastics, Problematic and avoidable plastic products, Hazardous polymers, Accumulation zones, Waste management, Chemicals and polymers of concern, Primary Plastic polymer.

Finally, regarding principles, we shared the view of them being reflected through a specific article as a crosscutting issue of the instrument, we reiterate the principles of international environmental legislation also submitted as GRULAC, we believe that they are bases for the instrument, about which we could add, the principle of non-regression, polluter pays principle, the used of best available science and waste hierarchy.

Thank you Mr Co-facilitator...