Intervention of the NGO Major Group

Good day Chair and Delegates, I thank you for the opportunity to make this intervention on behalf of the NGO Major Group.

I am Omoyemen Lucia Odigie-Emmanuel, Representative of the Centre for Human Rights and Climate Change Research speaking on behalf of the NGO Major Group Constituency.

Introduction

Concerned about global gaps in plastics waste management, emissions of chemicals and toxic materials detrimental to human health, nature and the environment resulting from activities in the full life cycle of plastics including the production, use and transportation of plastics materials.

Recognizing that the Global plastics pollution crisis and waste challenge demands immediate action, we thank the co-facilitators, heads of Government, Representatives of governments and Delegates for the commitments made to take action and deliver on eliminating plastic pollution.

Recognizing our role as major players in the field of environmental law and policy and our work with our local communities to shape laws, policies and drive action on global environment change and development agenda.

Alarmed at the constricted space for the participation of Major Groups including NGOs in the ongoing negotiation and concerned by the lack of recognition of our constituency and the fact that the NGO and other MGs did not have protected seats or flags to raise interventions at the INC-1.

Calling to mind the origin of the Major Groups and Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism and in the Spirit of building global partnerships and multilateralism, we call for enhanced principles of engagement and make this statement to show our support for the ongoing process and our commitment to support the Secretariat, member state and UNEP in the development of a legally binding instrument on plastics.

The NGO Major Group would like to make the following recommendations and share the following key messages:

1. Assume a right-based approach that recognizes the right of people and nature. For example the right of communities to be compensated when negatively affected by a scourge such as plastic pollution, and the rights of all people to clean air, clean water, and a clean and healthy environment.

2. Adopt a life cycle approach assumes a holistic approach which adopts a multidisciplinary approach with a clear focus on obligations for the production, manufacturing, and trading elements.

3. Recognize the social consequences of proposed measures or actions. Social Justice including application of the Just Transition Principle is of paramount importance.
KEY MESSAGES

1. The objective of the treaty should integrate ending plastic pollution with time bound commitments commencing with reduction, strict regulation of primary plastic production, global bans and requirements for phasing out harmful plastic production, applications, polymers and chemicals, protecting human health and the environment and regulating plastic through its life cycle.

2. Subsidies in the extraction of oil and gas and plastic production must end.

3. Transparency in chemical composition of plastic products must be ensured and a ban must be imposed to chemicals and polymers of concern.

4. NGOs must be supported and enabled to play a significant role in engaging business and industry on commitments to Reporting, Monitoring and Verification of plastics use and reduction.

5. Producers of plastic should be kept legally accountable for plastic pollution and the harms resulting from plastic production and use, thereby supporting public efforts to just transition away from plastics and to remEDIATE current plastic pollution and community impacts.

6. Global brand manufacturers who create the demand for plastic containers, bottles, and packaging should be taxed for as part of poverty alleviation schemes thereby securing an assurance of employment to people who collect plastic bottles and several other actors in the formal waste sector.

7. Producers of plastic should be kept legally accountable for plastic pollution and the harms resulting from plastic production and use, thereby supporting public efforts to just transition away from plastics and to remEDIATE current plastic pollution and community impacts.

8. A just transition must be ensured for workers along the life cycle of plastic, including those in informal and cooperative settings.

9. NGOs need to be involved in shaping policy making so that the voice of the people are Amplified, through National Platforms, local meetings etc.

10. Reject the promotion of kilns for burning plastic and other forms of thermal waste management, including pyrolysis, gasification, and other forms of chemical conversion.

11. Recognise the human rights of informal waste collectors to a safe working environment and a living wage, and plan a just transition for all workers across the plastics life cycle including the production and supply chain.

12. A global stocktake mechanism must ensure the present vulnerabilities of communities, countries and a similar mechanism of audit can be made compulsory for all stakeholders.

13. The treaty must encourage education, awareness, capacity building for various stakeholders, keeping the children, youth, women and faith based organizations at the leading. As they are the ones who can easily propagate the practical aspects of the issue in their larger community.

14. Reject the waste colonialism and the practice of rich nations dumping waste in Africa, Latin America and Asia through waste trade under the pretence of “recycling”.
15. Reject corruption and undue industry influence in plastics policymaking that is perpetuating the neo-colonial practices of exploitation of the global South including making the global South a dumping ground of rubbish.

16. An integrated and systemic approach to food security that addresses the issue of finding alternative systems of delivery for plastics creates space for experts from the Food systems and multi stakeholders to be part of the ongoing negotiation process here.

17. NGOs can play a big role to shape production and consumption and help strengthen the plastic deeds declaration with helping local community awareness of best practices, wise investment and green application, alongside industry efforts to reduce plastics production and eliminate toxic chemicals from plastic materials.

18. The Implementation, enforcement and compliance mechanism of the proposed treaty should include provision for administration, enforcement and compliance, subsequent decision-making, oversight and means of implementation.

19. The Implementation mechanism for the Convention should include provision for administration, enforcement and compliance, subsequent decision-making, oversight and means of implementation. Preliminary building blocks

We, thousands of international, regional and local organisations, stand ready to work with you.

THANK YOU