Thank you for the floor.

Dear distinguished delegates,

My name is Dalia Márquez, from Juventud Unida en Acción and I'm speaking on behalf of the UNEP Women’s Major Group.

The scope should cover the full lifecycle of plastics, from extraction to production, design, use, and disposal. We support delegations who highlighted that UNEA resolution 5/14 already defines the scope.

On principles, the instrument should include human rights, including women’s and Indigenous Peoples’ rights. We recall that UNEA resolution 5/14 already refers to the Rio Principles.

Toxicity throughout the life cycle of plastics affects our health, particularly women’s. We already find microplastics in humans, even in the brain, blood, lungs and breast milk. Bisphenol A, one of the most extensively used monomers, has been identified as an endocrine disruptor chemical and linked to breast and ovarian cancer, as well as immune, thyroid and metabolic problems. Our children are being born pre-polluted, with toxic chemicals, that disrupt the hormone system and can lead to infertility and irreversible disorders.

Plastic pollution puts humans’, nature’s, and biodiversity’s health at significant risk. Therefore, we urgently demand a moratorium, aligned with the precautionary principle, on single plastic products and chemicals of concern used in plastics that might have a hazardous effect on human health.

Precautionary principle, polluter pay principle, health, and human rights must be central, as well as the Planetary and One Health approaches. Plastics are part of the triple planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.

Therefore, we call for delegates to work towards a strong treaty that will ensure the scope of the future treaty covers the full life cycle of plastics, including from its source.

Thank you.