



Written statement during the 5ht OPCR

Item 8: Preparation of decisions and outcomes of the online fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

February 16th, 2021

Excellencies,

On behalf of the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), an accredited organization member of the *Break Free from Plastics* movement, we fully endorse the joint global statement from the Major Groups titled, 'Building Forward Better: Action is Urgently Needed'.

We are also aware of the current discussions of a proposal on OP3alt and OP4 of UNEP/EA.5/L.3, "Draft decision on the adjournment and resumption of the fifth session of the UNEA and of the fifth session of the OECPR".

While we understand the intention of deferring the action on UNEP's Executive Director reports, we have some general remarks. There is a request on paragraph 43 of the report UNEP/EA.5/8 which suggests: *"In preparation for its resumed fifth session, the Environment Assembly may wish to request the Executive Director to organize an informal expert group on marine litter and microplastics"*.

The intersessional work between UNEA 5.1 and UNEA 5.2 will be crucial to continuing the momentum of support toward a potential binding agreement covering the full lifecycle of plastics. We hope that these efforts by UNEP will support and complement a Member state-led process to build consensus for an urgent and comprehensive global solution to the plastic pollution crisis.

Whatever decision is made on that regard, we expect from member States some reaffirmation of existing commitments, including the need to have inclusive processes involving Civil Society Organisations, Indigenous peoples and other relevant stakeholders such as women, youth and children, and trade unions from the start. This interseccional work will ideally result in a resolution submitted to UNEA5.2 giving the mandate to create an intergovernmental negotiating committee.

We also see in the commemoration of Stockholm +50 a further significant opportunity to support a legally binding agreement to tackle plastic pollution, in alignment with the principles of the Stockholm Declaration.

Thank you,

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