



## Intervención de Embajadora Alejandra Guerra en la 154 reunión del CPR del PNUMA. 20 de mayo de 2021.

Thank you Chair for giving me the floor, because of the lateness of the hour I will go directly to my statement:

**Distinguished colleagues:** I have asked for the floor in order to share with you and, also invite you all, to participate in the "**Group of Friends of Nairobi to Combat Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution**", which will initially be co-chaired by Portugal and Chile.

The objective of the initiative is to bring together - in an informal and voluntary basis - Member States and stakeholders accredited to UNEP, who have an interest and are committed to advance in the fight against marine litter and plastic pollution worldwide, taking into account the conclusions of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Experts Group (Created by UNEA-3) with the purpose to identify response options at all levels of governance to eliminate the discharge of litter and microplastics into the oceans.

We believe that, just as the Group of Friends was formed in this matter last year in New York, the Member States and stakeholders accredited to UNEP, interested in the fight against marine litter and plastic pollution, cannot be left behind, it is necessary to give visibility to this very important matter in Nairobi, where UNEP as the world's highest authority on environmental agenda is located, and taking in consideration the "momentum" towards the UNEA 5.2, in which this matter will be of the greatest importance.

The Group of Friends will have, among others, the following aims; to push for an ambitious, coherent and effective global action against marine litter and plastic pollution leading to UNEA-5.2; to galvanize support to consider the need of a global governance



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framework in this matter, advocating for coordinated solutions that address the problem at all levels; also, to promote knowledge to understand better the sources, pathways and impacts of marine litter and plastic pollution at national, regional and global level, and to promote joint action or partnerships to engage with the private sector, civil society and academia.

Because this initiative by the Group of Friends is open to all Member States and stakeholders, I take this opportunity to request the Secretariat to explore the options of providing technical support, regarding the facilitation of platforms that allow us to meet virtually. It would be much appreciated.

Distinguished colleagues, soon we will send you all, a concept note from the Group of Friends with more information. The invitation is extended to everyone. We hope you can join us in this Group of Friends of Nairobi dedicated to Combat Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution!

Finally, I'm happy to inform that many countries that have heard of this initiative have already manifested their intention of becoming part of this Group.

Welcome everyone and many thanks.