



Date: June 27th, 2024

To Secretariat INC  
Mrs. Jyoti Mathur-Filipp

CC: President H.E. Luis Vayas Valdivieso  
CC: Members of Bureau INC:  
Mrs. Juliet Kabera  
Mr. Ndiaye Cheikh Sylla  
Mr. Hiroshi Ono  
Mr. Mohammad Al-Khashashneh  
Mr. Harry Liiv  
Mrs. Irma Gurguliani  
H.E. Gustavo Meza-Cuadra Velasquez  
Mrs. Asha Challenger  
Mrs. Johanna Lissinger-Peitz  
Mrs. Larke Williams

In consideration of the meeting held with María Gabriela Espin, representative of the Chair, on June 21, 2024, we would like to raise the following concerns regarding the process of organizing the inter-sessional work in the framework of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the Plastics Agreement.

- Lack of transparency about the basis for the selection of the twelve experts - *technical resource persons* - who will advise the open-ended working groups.
- Uncertainty as to whether this group of experts will be dissolved at the conclusion of the intersessional meetings and how it will function.
- Lack of guarantee of participation for civil society observers. By law many countries in Latin America and the Caribbean cannot include civil society members in their delegations, and currently this is the only way observers can register to the intersessional work. In this sense, intersessional work is an integral part of the INC

process, which by default is governed by the same rules of procedure as INCs. Thus, Articles 55 and 56 allow observers and accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to participate in all sessions related to the INC as observers.

- The above shows an imbalance of political positions and knowledge, which are indispensable in any negotiation, if we really want to create an international instrument that protects health and the environment and not one that maintains the status quo, the business as usual that led us to the current situation of tremendous deterioration of the planet.
- Absence of policies to avoid conflict of interest in these negotiations.
- Absence of response to the questions, requests and proposals on participation mechanisms and conflicts of interest, which have been made by GAIA Latin America member organizations and other organizations from different regions of the world, with a view to the next INC, to be held in November 2024.
- Although the inter-sessional meetings are not considered part of the negotiation process, the participation and attendance of observer organizations is no less important, since the issues to be addressed involve fundamental political agreements due to the conditions of the zero draft of the Treaty (more than 3700 brackets) to be negotiated at the INC5.
- There is no record of other *UNEA* resolutions and related negotiation processes, although led by States, which do not include the participation of civil society in all instances in which a negotiation is carried out, so this situation seems to us to be highly irregular.

For this reason, we request openness to the participation of civil society - especially those that represent communities in more vulnerable situations regarding plastic pollution - in the intersessional meetings. We also request that the mechanism for the selection of experts be made transparent, and that a policy be established to prevent and avoid conflict of interest in the inter-sessional discussions.

Signatory:

Latin American and Caribbean Network for the reduction of plastic production with binding global targets.