



February 13, 2025

**Subject:** Request to the Bureau to include in its agenda for the February 20 meeting the effective involvement of observers.

To:

INC Bureau Members:

Ms. Juliet Kabera

Mr. Ndiaye Cheikh Sylla

Mr. Hiroshi Ono

Mr. Mohammed Albarrak

Mr. Harry Liiv

Ms. Irma Gurguliani

H.E. Gustavo Meza-Cuadra Velasquez

Ms. Asha Challenger

Ms. Johanna Lissinger-Peitz

Ms. Larke Williams

The undersigned Latin American and Caribbean organizations are writing to you as representatives of the Bureau to request concrete actions in response to the inconsistencies presented during the meetings of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC).

We have witnessed how at the highest level of UNEP negotiations, our participation as observers has been deliberately removed from the process, as evidenced by the unjustified decision that the only planned meetings were closed, such as the inter-sessional meetings, the more than two days of informal meetings at INC 5, and the Heads of Delegation meetings. These decisions directly affect transparency and introduce power imbalances and biases.

On repeated occasions we, the organizations, have made public the reduction of spaces for effective participation of observer organizations, however we have not seen tangible changes to improve the conditions of our right to participation as guaranteed by the Aarhus Convention and the Escazú Agreement.

Therefore, we ask that at your next meeting on February 20, 2025 you include as an agenda item a discussion on the future of the process and the effective participation of observers.

Kind regards

Cecilia Bianco on behalf of the Abya Yala network for the reduction of plastic production with binding global goals

CC: Ambassador Vayas Valdivieso, INC Chair; Ms. Jyoti Mathur-Filipp, Executive Secretary of the INC Secretariat;

Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP; Ms. Daniela García; Mr. Andrés Gómez