

February 19th, 2025



To the Bureau of the INC,
Cc Her Excellency Ms. Gabriela Sommerfeld and His Excellency Mr. Jaime Barberis

UNEP HQ, Nairobi, Kenya

Subject: The Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) calls for greater accountability, inclusiveness and transparency in the INC process

Honourable Bureau Members,

GAIA, a network with more than 1,000 members in all UN regions, would like to raise concerns with the INC Bureau about transparency and inclusiveness in the INC negotiations. Specific examples include, but are not limited to:

- The intentional exclusion of Observers from Intersessional Work between INC-4 and INC-5, despite the multiple requests for Observers' participation from the African Group, supported by others, and to which no UN Member State objected during the final plenary of INC-4.
- The exclusion of Observers in Heads of Delegations' meetings.
- The intentional, unilateral, unprecedented and now recurrent restriction of Observer participation during INC-5 contact group and other key meetings. This indirectly favours Member States with large delegations, which are a minority, and limits technical, scientific and practical support to the Member States most impacted by plastic pollution.

The INC Chair must govern the INC process in a manner that is conducive to a meaningful international agreement to end plastic pollution as mandated by the UNEA resolution 5/14. This can only be achieved through a transparent and inclusive process that includes the demands and knowledge of the groups most affected by plastic pollution across the full lifecycle of plastics, whether rights holders or Member States.

GAIA requests that members of the Bureau ensure greater accountability in the INC negotiations and proposes the following measures:

1. That the INC Chair makes decisions in conjunction with the Bureau and not unilaterally, especially when related to the organization of work.
2. That the INC Chair works in conjunction with UNEP's INC Secretariat creating mutual accountability to the groups that both bodies are meant to represent.
3. Include Observers in all meetings including Heads of Delegations meetings and Intersessional Work.
4. Provide interpretation services in the six United Nations languages at all meetings, including online meetings, for the length of any meetings and throughout the duration of such negotiations.
5. The bureau must enable clear and accessible communication channels during the negotiations for Observers, with an immediate response to complaints related to the INC Chair's actions that affect participation and transparency.

GAIA also supports the letters sent by IPEN (International Pollutants Elimination Network), the Scientists Coalition for an Effective Plastics Treaty, the Indigenous Peoples and Their Communities Major Group, the Red del Abya Yala por la Reducción de la Producción de Plásticos con Metas Globales Vinculantes, the Women's Major Group and the International Alliance of Waste Pickers.

We look forward to a constructive outcome.

Yours sincerely,

Ana Rocha
Director of the Global Plastics Program - GAIA