

Muchas gracias, Sr Presidente.

I speak as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on toxics and human rights.

It is encouraging to see the pace of progress picking up in this fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee. At the same time, it is concerning to see insufficient mention of explicit human rights language in the discussions.

This is concerning because human rights are the key to a legitimate, equitable and effective legally binding instrument on plastic pollution. This is certainly true in regards to human rights references in the preamble that can inspire and properly frame the vision of the instrument. And it is also true in respect of operative elements of the legally binding instrument, for example, in:

- The Objective, where the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment plays a fundamental role;
- Transparency and the right of access to information, such as in relation to:
  - Volumes of production, so that actual reductions in production can be achieved; and
  - Chemicals of concern, so that hazardous substances that are added to plastics can be controlled and eliminated.
- Just transition, so that the right to a healthy work environment can be realized for all;
- The Polluter Pays Principle, which is particularly important in regards to a global tax on plastic producers that could help clean up plastic pollution legacies. Implementation of this principle can also help address the plight of coastal communities, including Indigenous peoples and small islands states, that are drowning in plastic litter that is drifting from the seas.

Last but not least, I wish to underscore the right to development, which is the basis for meaningful public participation in plastics policy. This right is also critical to the design of effective means of implementation that can channel international cooperation and realize international solidarity.

To conclude, Mr. Chair,

A human rights-based approach ensures that solutions to the global plastic crisis do not come at the expense of the most vulnerable in society. I therefore take this opportunity to encourage the Members to more forcefully reflect human rights in their continuing discussions.

Thank you very much.