

NGO statement on 22 May 2019

INPUT on Section 3:

I'm Ana Barreira, speaking on behalf of the NGOs.

Thank you co-chairs for your work.

Over the past three sessions we have had much talk on gaps. The most important gap that we have not yet addressed is the gap in political will that we are facing. It is not a coincidence that the countries that are trying so hard to kill this process of any meaningful action are the very countries whose industries continue to pollute the planet. We cannot allow vested interests to dominate this work.

There is no need to reiterate how much we as NGOs see the success of a Global Pact for the Environment as a crucial way to protect the environment and to revert the current trajectory of destruction of our Earth System. Although we are sure every delegate individually feels the urgency to act, this is not very much reflected in the discussions. We consider that the text now on the table does not make any meaningful contribution, it does not contain no innovation nor the expected and required response. Is there any new proposal different from the outcomes of the 1972 Stockholm Conference, Rio Conference and their anniversaries?

Nevertheless, we still keep some hope on the outcome of this process considering the support of some MS to this process.

We do agree on granting UNEP an important role in filling the content of the package of measures this GPE requires. Therefore, UNEA-5 is the optimum forum to undertake this, together with MS and stakeholders, as having the structure for starting this inclusive process. Using the CPRs and the Regional Consultation Meetings will be effective for creating the ownership of this whole package without bringing extra costs.

Nevertheless we do agree with some MS, that the process must take place at the highest political level. We need the involvement of Head of States and other ministries on the national level, as well as other UN institutions to endorse a GPE to achieve the urgently needed change for implementing existing environmental laws but also to give the appropriate legal response to revert this emergency.

Linking this process with SDGs is fundamental as without an enabling legal framework, their achievement is cumbersome particularly achieving SDG16, on governance and rule of law. If we look at the implementation, using legal frameworks, it is

evident that the social and economic dimensions of the SDG are very well covered, also with strong UN institutions covering the social protection and human rights, same for regulating economic activities. Meanwhile, the environmental dimension is the weakest part. Therefore, this is another strong reason for the Global Pact to be endorsed at the highest level, as key part for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Thank you.