

Open statement for INC-2

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Delivered by: Valentina Muñoz Farías;
Marine litter and community engagement officer;
Sciaena – Associação de Ciências Marinhas e Cooperação

Gracias por la palabra, señor presidente.

I kindly salute all of you today.

My name is Valentina and I work at Sciaena, an ocean conservation NGO from Portugal. We are also members of Break Free From Plastic movement.

I would like to start by reminding everyone listening to this statement that we are facing a global crisis that **threats all of us, with no exception**. And in times of crisis, time... is not to be taken for granted.

We urgently need to move forward on the negotiation. And for that, we must acknowledge the ugly and uncomfortable truth that some of the Members and stakeholders sitting in this room are main polluters, and all of us, including them, are being polluted.

I ask everyone, what is the right way for **effectively** tackle plastic pollution when there is such a conflict of interest? Does the –already full– pockets of some, worth the well-being of every organism, creature, human being, and ecosystem on this planet?

There is at least a thousand people here putting lots of resources, and their precious time on this committee. Now I ask you, chairpeople, are you permitting the attempts of delaying this negotiation knowing there is no time to waste but plastic waste flooding our lungs, stomachs, and blood every second?

We count on you, Members, decision makers, to do things right once and for all, and recognize that environmental issues are based on social injustice, so it is imperative to prioritize human rights and specially the most vulnerable groups above any economic or industrial interest that benefits a few and is killing millions.

Just keep in mind that humankind won't prosper much longer by breathing, eating, or drinking money, sorry... plastics.

Thank you.

