

STATEMENT  
GROUP OF COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN  
MAR. 3, 2023

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Madame co-chair,

I am taking the floor on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean countries. We would like to thank firstly, the government and people of Kenya for hosting the meeting and having welcomed us to the country. We would like to express our recognition and gratitude to both of you for how you led our deliberations and for the outcome achieved. It was a tough and difficult task but, with your guidance, the selfless commitment of the co-facilitators of the different thematic groups, and the support of the Secretariat, we managed to agreed on a base text that, without any doubt, will help the negotiations at the next International Conference on Chemicals Management, in Bonn.

We would like also to thank all stakeholders for their involvement in a constructive meeting, in which we worked with collaborative and tireless spirit. We also would like to extend our appreciation to the donors that made this meeting possible, enabling an enhanced participation from developing countries.

GRULAC would like to underscore that any global agenda to reduce pollution must be accompanied by the design of an essential mechanism for financing, technology transfer and capacity building, from developed countries to developing countries. It constitutes a sine qua non requirement.

This stems from one of the most important principles agreed upon at Rio in 1992: the recognition of the fact that, in view of the different contributions to global environment degradation, States have common but differentiated responsibilities. The outcome document of this meeting must reflect this principle, amongst others from the Rio Declaration, which is essential to our understanding of the problem and the search for adequate and efficient ways to address it.

In this regard, we would like to reiterate that our Group supports the constitution of a dedicated fund to complement other specific external sources of financing.

We also would like to highlight the strong support we heard this week to relevant crosscutting issues to which our Group attaches the most importance, such as the protection of human rights, the fostering of gender equality, the need to be respectful of a just transition, and to put in place adequate mechanisms for transparency and information sharing.

GRULAC considers the health sector has a critical role and unique expertise to contribute to the sound management of chemicals and waste. Additionally, in the world of work, strong and resilient occupational safety and health systems, built on social dialogue, are essential for protecting workers, communities and the environment.

Madame co-chair,

During this week we accomplished a lot, and progressed in many relevant issues, but we don't neglect that we still have a long way to go and that many other topics remain without agreement. That is why, we support your proposed course of action, to resume our meeting two days prior to ICCM5 to allow us to improve and clean the text as much as possible in order to reach our objective of putting in place an ambitious, improved enabling framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste, as called for by UNEA resolution 5/7.

Madame President of ICCM5,

We know that the work ahead is massive, but you can rest assured of the commitment of our countries to continue working constructively with a view to getting consensus that will contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, building a better world for all of us and future generations.

