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**Azul Reflections from First Week at INC-5.2, the Second Part of Fifth Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Plastics Treaty.**

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**Geneva, Switzerland (August 9, 2025)** – As the second part of the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5.2) convenes in Geneva to continue critical negotiations on a global plastics treaty, civil society organizations are united in expressing serious concern over the current direction of the talks.

In response, Azul is releasing two new documents: a ***Procedural Voting Proposal*** aimed at ensuring that these negotiations uphold the principles of transparency, inclusivity, and justice, and a ***Proposed Addition to Article 11 – A New Transparency Mechanism and Legal Classification of Contributors***, a follow-up to the policy proposal released ahead of INC-5.2.

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Despite growing public support for a bold and binding treaty that addresses plastic pollution through a full life cycle approach, the negotiation process at the the second part of the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC-5.2), has increasingly marginalized civil society voices – particularly those representing communities most impacted by plastic pollution. Meanwhile, industry actors with vested interests have enjoyed disproportionate access, getting an opportunity to influence outcomes that could undermine the goals of UNEA 5/14.

Observer participation is crucial to ensuring that the needs, knowledge, and expertise of civil society are present during these negotiations, as stressed in [UNEA resolution 5/14](#), which called for the "widest and most effective participation possible."

In response, Azul has released a **Procedural Voting Proposal** aimed at ensuring that these negotiations uphold the principles of transparency, inclusivity, and justice. This proposal outlines specific measures and vote-ready language to rebalance participation and realign the process with the UN's commitment to multilateralism and public interest. It addresses not only the

remaining negotiations at INC-5.2 but also the procedures and accessibility of future treaty sessions.

Marce Gutiérrez-Graudiņš, Founder and Executive Director of Azul and co-author of the UNEP report, [Neglected](#), released the following statement:

*“Decisions made in closed rooms, without the insight and scrutiny of civil society – frontline communities, scientists, and Indigenous Peoples – risk leading to a treaty that lacks legitimacy, ambition, and the bold solutions the world urgently needs. This proposal is not only a procedural correction – it is a call to recommit to the democratic values that should guide all multilateral environmental agreements.”*

Roland Gonzalez Pizarro, Senior Policy Associate, released the following quote:

*"The current negotiation process, burdened by procedural inefficiencies and protracted bracketed language, imperils the timely delivery of a robust instrument to address plastic pollution. The proposed procedural reforms are indispensable to restoring rigor, transparency, and discipline, ensuring that negotiations advance with both equity and clarity. To resist these measures is to jeopardize the mandate entrusted to us by the global community."*

Hundreds of civil society organizations from across the globe, many of whom traveled thousands of kilometers to attend these pivotal negotiations, are effectively shut out of negotiation rooms. This creates an inadequate environment to create and deliver the treaty the world needs.

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Focused specifically on Article 11: Financing Mechanisms, our new proposal builds on our policy brief released ahead of INC-5.2, ***A Just Plastics Treaty: For Communities, By Communities***, reflecting developments during this critical week of negotiations. As an organization that works with the Latin American diaspora, just and equitable financing – ensuring financial mechanisms flow from developed countries to those in need – has been a central concern for Azul throughout the rounds of negotiations.

Azul’s new policy proposal – ***Proposed Addition to Article 11 – A New Transparency Mechanism and Legal Classification of Contributors*** – includes treaty-ready language for Article 11 of the treaty: language with clear, data-driven guidelines for ensuring this goal becomes a reality. Notably, the proposal includes a framework for the classification of countries as ‘developed,’ ‘developing,’ and ‘in transition,’ leveraging an internationally recognized methodology known as the Export Complexity Index adjusted for income (“EXPY”) to determine contributions and flow of funds.

*“Our communities can’t afford a treaty built on vague promises. This treaty is a historic opportunity to make concrete steps towards ocean justice by ensuring resources are directed toward the communities that need it most. This proposal offers a transparent, evidence-based framework that ensures that those with the greatest economic capacity contribute their fair share to ensure the promise of this treaty becomes a reality,” said Gutiérrez-Graudiņš.*

The proposal offers a robust structure to ensure that developed countries contribute their fair share and that resources are allocated justly and with transparency.

*“Our new classification framework is grounded in rigorous quantitative analysis – not rhetorical flourish – ensuring that each party contributes commensurate with its genuine capability. This approach closes loopholes, eliminates pretexts, and fosters genuine collaboration. After all, the ocean recognizes neither GDP rankings nor plastic as currency; it demands decisive and equitable action,” said Gonzalez Pizarro.*

As we enter what could potentially be the last week of negotiations for a multilateral instrument that could help solve one of the biggest and most intractable crisis affecting people and nature all around the world, it is imperative that we incorporate lessons learned from previous processes and make the best use of this historical opportunity to create an instrument fit for purpose that centers human rights, global health and environmental justice.

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Azul is an ocean justice organization working with grassroots Latino communities to protect our blue planet. Founded in 2011, Azul has developed –and executed– campaigns that achieved groundbreaking ocean conservation policy victories.