

# PLASTIC CONTAMINATION IN PERU: Reflections on the Global Agreement



Up to July 2023, Peru was producing approximately **1.2 million** tons of plastic waste per year and **only 10%** of this waste was adequately recycled.



These figures are worrying, even more so, if we take into account that approximately **78%** of this waste can potentially recovered.

Source: Miriam

## GLOBAL AGREEMENT

### What should be the priority areas?

In March 2022, during the fifth session of United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), countries adopted Resolution 5/14 to create the first global treaty against plastic pollution, including its impact on marine ecosystems.

To this effect, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) was formed, which began work in 2022 with the goal of concluding negotiations by the end of 2024. Now, in this fifth session (INC-5), a binding and ambitious Global Agreement is expected to be reached to address this problem.

Considering the Peruvian context and similarities in the challenges to reduce consumption, use and disposal of plastics, 4 key issues that the Global Agreement should consider are identified:

1

#### Reflect concrete actions against the entire plastic life cycle and prioritize mitigation of its use

Plastic pollution occurs before it becomes waste, i.e. from fossil fuel burning to obtain raw material for manufacturing. Therefore, measures to mitigate the use of plastics should not be limited to recycling actions but should directly address the early stages of design and production.

2

#### Put human rights at the center

It has been recognized that plastic pollution generates direct and serious impacts on people's health, together with other environmental, social and economic impacts, which mostly affects vulnerable populations. In this regard, clear goals on a just transition and intergenerational justice should be set.

3

#### Strengthen the establishment of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Regimes

It is important that the States consider all actors involved who are responsible for the manufacture or insertion of plastic waste in the domestic market through clear commitments. There is a global tendency to include EPR mechanisms to avoid the generation of waste and promote the design of less harmful products. Therefore, we believe that the treaty should include mandatory mechanisms, considering local challenges of each country.

4

#### Need for an efficient, transparent and inclusive negotiation

The construction of the final version of the Global Agreement must reflect the urgency and needs of our planet to address plastic pollution. The world population observes and expects concrete actions from States.



# POLICIES APPLICABLE TO PERU

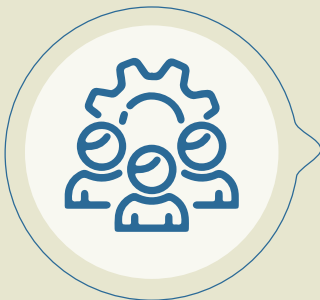


Taking into account the urgency of addressing plastic pollution, SPDA recommends the following actions as priorities relevant for the national context:



## Generate certain, updated and official information to set recycling rates

It is necessary that local municipalities, together with the Ministry of Environment identify what the real recycling rates are, including in the informal sector. Only with official information that is closer to reality will it be possible to make improved public policy decisions to address plastic pollution. Only with official information closer to reality can better public policy decisions be made to address plastic pollution.



## Business sector commitment

The private sector, involved in the design, production and marketing of plastic products, needs to have explicit regulatory obligations and/or appropriate incentives to provide key information, reduce its plastic production and improve waste management. Therefore, it is key for the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Production to work hand in hand with the unions. The current critical scenario of climate change, because of plastic pollution, is demanding changes in the global market. The Peruvian business sector cannot be oblivious to this to maintain its competitiveness in the coming years.



## Advancing in the effective implementation of the single-use plastic law

Law 30884, "Law that regulates single-use plastic and disposable containers or packaging", was an important milestone in Peru. However, the progressive implementation implies rigorous monitoring that permanently evaluates the effectiveness of its implementation. Therefore, it is necessary to allocate resources and involve all authorities at the national, regional and local levels directly or indirectly responsible for solid waste management.





### Promote spaces for dissemination and awareness of the real impact of plastics

There are efforts by the Ministry of Environment to sensitize civil society on the impact of plastic on our natural environment and health. However, we still face the challenge of ensuring that Law 30884 is effectively implemented throughout national territory, including distributors, retailers and end consumers who are accustomed to using plastic in their daily routines. It is a task for all actors of civil society: government authorities, academics and civil society.



### Effectively include garbage recyclers as key agents in plastic reduction

Garbage recyclers should be included and recognized as key agents in the solid waste value chain, guaranteeing the respect of their rights. Although Peru since 2009 has implemented Law 29419, Law regulating the activity of waste pickers and has developed work between actors and municipalities, we consider the need to increase their articulation improve municipality solid waste management.



As can be seen, Peru has approved important regulations to address plastic pollution and several aspects are aligned with options in the current draft of the Global Agreement; However, the challenge for Peru continues to be the effective in the implementation of national regulations to be better prepared for the changes that will come with an expected Global Agreement.

Photo: Thomas Muller / SPDA

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