



# coare

The Center for Oceanic Awareness, Research, & Education

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**via e-mail:** ( [srtoxicshr@ohchr.org](mailto:srtoxicshr@ohchr.org) )

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Marcos Orellana  
United Nations Special Rapporteur on Toxics and Human Rights

Re: The lifecycle of plastics and human rights

Dear Mr. Orellana:

We were pleased to learn that you were undertaking work to investigate and broaden the understanding of the impact of the lifecycle of plastics on human rights.

As you may know, COARE worked with the United Nations Environment Programme and Azul to author and produce the recently released report: *Neglected: Environmental Justice Impacts of Plastic Pollution*. Your colleague Dr. David Boyd, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment, included remarks at the launch of the report on 30 March 2021 regarding the lifecycle of plastic: "There are adverse environmental impacts at each and every stage." He further noted that the impact of plastics was a human rights issue: "So let me be crystal clear: plastic pollution kills people. [ . . . ] so in a nutshell, plastic pollution violates human rights — the right to life, the right to health, the right to a healthy environment, the rights of a child, and more."

The report *Neglected* further notes how the impact of plastics is not only harmful to our well-being along its entire life cycle, but that it also disproportionately impacts vulnerable communities around the world.

You can download the report from:

<https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/35417>

We encourage you to refer to the report if you have not done so already.

The evidence to date indicating the need to curb plastic production is already overwhelming, and the more we learn, the more clear it is that the full lifecycle of plastic is also closely tied with the climate crisis.

We look forward to your report, and change that it will encourage, inspire, and demand.

Sincerely,



Christopher CHIN  
Executive Director