

Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution  
including in the marine environment  
23 - 29 April 2024, Ottawa, Canada

## ASIA PACIFIC GROUP REGIONAL STATEMENT

Mr. Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues, Heads of Delegation  
and Members,

1. On behalf of the Asia Pacific Group (APG), we extend our warm greetings and express our gratitude to Canada for their hospitality and to the Chair and the Secretariat for their diligent efforts in advancing our collective goal. Through the delivery of APG's high-level statement on plastic pollution at the Sixth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6), the Group showed its political commitment to the process. We gather here at the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution (INC-4) with a renewed sense of purpose and commitment to address the pressing challenge of ending plastic pollution.
2. We welcome the revised draft text presented in UNEP/PP/INC.4/3 as a foundational basis for our textual negotiations at this session. It represents a significant step forward, and here at INC-4, we look forward to its further streamlining and elaboration while maintaining key insights, aiming for its finalization by INC-5 in Busan, Korea later this year. Our discussion should prioritize on the core substances specifically indicated in the UNEA Resolution 5/14.
3. Furthermore, the APG calls for a decision on intersessional work for the period between INC-4 and INC-5 while respecting the negotiation process during the INCs. This work should allow for an in-depth dialogue aimed towards a better understanding of the issues vital for the finalization of the instrument at INC-5, ensuring that we maintain momentum and focus on our objectives.

4. We stress the paramount importance of inclusiveness and consensus in our decision-making processes. The diversity of our perspectives is a strength that, when harnessed through collaborative dialogue, can lead to robust and universally supported outcomes.
5. Recognizing varying national circumstances, capacities and approaches to address plastic pollution is crucial across the instrument. The APG believes that accommodating for flexibilities and various approaches will enable us to collectively embark on the most effective and suitable actions, which can be strengthened over time, while allowing sufficient transition time for countries and markets to adjust in a step-by-step manner.
6. We must avoid duplication and seek complementarity among relevant international conventions and instruments by identifying related activities and gaps with a view to closing those gaps. This will streamline our efforts and leverage existing mechanisms to combat plastic pollution effectively.
7. Comprehensive approaches across the full lifecycle of plastics for addressing legacy, present, and future plastic pollution need to be undertaken. Enhancing circularity approaches should stand as a core and overarching approach of this instrument, underpinned by, among others, improved product design and performance as well as environmentally sound waste management.
8. Our discussions on core obligations must proceed in tandem with those on the means of implementation while respecting national circumstances. The provision of timely, appropriate and adequate financial and technical assistance, alongside modalities for technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, will be critical for the implementation of the instrument through effective and cost-efficient actions.
9. We acknowledge that some legal obligations arising out of a new international legally binding instrument will require capacity-building and technical and financial assistance in order to be effectively implemented by developing countries.

10. National plans will have critical impact on progress of implementation of the instrument, urging country-driven actions across the full lifecycle of plastics in a coherent and transparent manner.
11. In closing, the Asia Pacific Group reaffirms its willingness and commitment to constructively engage with all delegations. Together, let's forge a path towards a successful outcome, setting the stage for the ambition to complete the work by INC-5.

Thank you.