

Intergovernmental Negotiating Session – resumed fifth session

AUSTRALIA – OPENING STATEMENT

Australia thanks Switzerland for its gracious hospitality in hosting the resumed fifth Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5.2) meeting. We also thank the INC Chair, Ambassador Luis Vayas Valdivieso, and the Secretariat for their hard work preparing for this session of the INC.

Australia is committed to working constructively to agree the text of an effective and meaningful global instrument that ends plastic pollution. We want an instrument that addresses the full life cycle of plastics, promotes a safe circular economy, supports the needs of the Pacific region and other small island developing states that are disproportionately impacted by plastic pollution, and includes a consistent set of global rules complementing national-level action.

Under this instrument, it is essential that sufficient information is available, collected, shared and reported across the plastic life cycle to support transparency and inform targeted interventions, so that action to tackle plastic pollution can be directed to where it is needed most.

This process must deliver a meaningful pathway that supports our transition to a more circular economy in plastics. The treaty must contain levers and mechanisms to allow for flexibility in implementation so that it can operate dynamically over time and respond appropriately in addressing plastic pollution.

We support an instrument that recognises the unique status, perspectives and interests of Indigenous Peoples and incorporates the best available science, including the knowledges, sciences and practices of Indigenous Peoples.

We look forward to working with all INC Members at INC-5.2 to finalise a meaningful and effective legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution.