



## **Second Part of the Fifth Session Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC-5.2)**

Geneva, Switzerland, 8 August 2025

### **Statement: Full Statement in Plenary**

**Delivered by:** H.E. Ilana V. Seid, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Palau and Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States

Mr Chair, Excellencies, Colleagues,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the 39 small island developing States.

We thank the co-facilitators for their time and energy in moving our negotiations forward. Progress remains far too slow. We came here to conclude this process—to deliver an effective and equitable agreement that meets the mandate established three years ago. Our people expect no less: an agreement that ends plastic pollution, protects our precious marine environment, and transforms the way we produce and consume plastic so the problem does not worsen.

Yet, we have been caught in a web of informals upon informals — uncounted, uncontrolled, and stretching our small delegations to the breaking point. Inconsistent modalities, untimely communication, and procedural irregularities have made it increasingly difficult to work efficiently. These challenges have also led to inaccuracies in the assembled text circulated today.

Our priorities as SIDS are clear:

**First, addressing existing plastic pollution in the marine environment.** We can prevent it. We can reduce it. But we **must** also remove what is already choking our oceans. This requires agreed obligations both within **and** beyond national jurisdiction, means and mechanisms for cooperation, and the necessary financing to make clean-up a reality.

**Second, finance and capacity-building.** Our special circumstances must be operationalised—not just as words in a preamble, but through equitable and effective access to funds and means of implementation that allow SIDS' full and effective participation. This agreement must provide *new and additional* funding to build sustained capacity. SIDS are

supportive of all developing countries being able to access finance; however, we can only accept a treaty which includes an undiluted, particular treatment for access for SIDS and LDCs.

Mr. Chair, plastic pollution in the marine environment cuts to the heart of SIDS' vulnerabilities. We can only accept a treaty in which we see ourselves—one that offers an equitable pathway for SIDS to address plastic pollution and fully recognises our special circumstances, both in the principles of the agreement and in its operative provisions.

As we move into the final stretch of negotiations, SIDS will not stand by while our future is bartered away in a stalemate of “you first—no, you first.” This dangerous brinkmanship—pitting finance against obligations—has a real price: a dying ocean, collapsing biodiversity, and an ever-growing burden on those least responsible for this crisis. And we call on all parties to work together and bridge divides so we can move forward.

We reaffirm our trust in your stewardship, Mr. Chair, and our commitment to working constructively under your guidance. But trust must be matched with transparency, open communication, and consistent modes of work. It must also guarantee that SIDS are present and represented in all convenings, including small informal groups convened by Members or the Chair.

We are here to work. This is a collective call for trust, for cooperation, and for focus. We have four days to deliver an equitable, inclusive, and effective agreement. Let us move beyond procedural posturing and engage in substantive problem-solving. Our ocean, our people, and our planet cannot wait.

Thank you Mr. Chair.