Statement to the INC4 Plenary Floor

Esteemed delegates and distinguished members of the INC4,

It is with great responsibility and a sense of urgency that we present our key priorities for the INC4 negotiations as representatives of over 200 consumer groups across the world. Our positions are aligned with the legitimate needs of consumers and the pressing need to safeguard our environment for future generations.

1. **Alignment with UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection** We would like to highlight the importance of incorporating consumer rights in the treaty and strongly urge for the alignment to, and inclusion of, the UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection to ensure that the legitimate needs of consumers are met. This alignment will serve as the cornerstone for promoting responsible production and consumption practices.

2. **Accessibility of Non-plastic Alternatives** We assert the importance of making safe and environmentally sound non-plastic alternatives available, accessible, and affordable to consumers. This proactive approach is essential in contributing to reducing the reliance on plastics and mitigating its adverse environmental and health impacts.

3. **Transparency in Consumer Information** We strongly call for consumers' right to access adequate and transparent information about plastic products and packaging. This information should be unambiguous, accurate, easily accessible, and verifiable, aiming to prevent misleading claims and empower consumers to make informed choices.

4. **Reduction of Plastic Production** We call for the acknowledgment of production as the root cause of the plastic pollution crisis and advocate for an agreement on the reduction of plastic production with definitive targets and timelines. This proactive step is essential in effectively addressing plastic pollution and transitioning towards sustainable production practices.

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5. Legally Binding Language for Accountability We strongly advocate for the adoption of legally binding language throughout the Treaty to ensure that governments and businesses are held accountable for their commitments and actions. This accountability is crucial for the effective implementation of the Treaty and the realization of the spirit of UNEA Resolution 5/14.

Our commitment to these key priorities reflects our unwavering dedication in facilitating responsible production and consumption to address the pressing issue of plastic pollution. We are eager to engage in constructive dialogue and collaboration with all stakeholders to achieve meaningful outcomes during the INC4 negotiations.

In conclusion, we extend our gratitude to the Chair, Ambassador Meza-Cuadra, and all members of the INC for their dedication to protecting the environment and human health from the impacts of plastic pollution. Let us continue to be ambitious, innovative, inclusive, and bold in our pursuit of a sustainable and plastic-free future.
Thank you.
Sincerely,
Consumers International