INC-4
Plenary statement on Intersessional work

Thank you, Chair, my name is Zaynab Sadan, and I am speaking on behalf of WWF. The critical nature, of the progress that we must make from now until INC-5, cannot be overstressed.

As the INC debates the solutions to end the plastic pollution crisis, we must not forget that this crisis is unfolding.

In the next three seconds, as I finish this sentence, one more metric ton of plastics leaked into the marine environment. Every year, the plastic pollution in our oceans increase an estimated amount of at least 11 million metric tons.

When the INC was given the mandate, in Resolution 5/14, to negotiate the treaty, Member States took on a mission, as well as a promise, to outpace the accelerating rate of plastic pollution, with legally binding measures across the full plastic life cycle.

It is time that the promise is fulfilled. It is time, that Member States delivered what they vowed to achieve. WWF urges states to contribute, in all ways possible, to intersessional work, to fulfil your promise to people, and nature.

Formal working groups with both member state and observer participation, informal initiatives, ministerial leadership—we need all hands on deck, to create a treaty that can make real impacts, a treaty that can end plastic pollution. It is a challenging task, but you have the people, businesses, civil society, on your side. Together, you CAN make this happen, if you choose to do so.

WWF commends the Chair’s leadership this week, in guiding and ensuring the INC delivers its mandate. This leadership, and the cooperative spirit of Member States, will be imperative to the necessary intersessional progress, towards a legally binding treaty that bans and phases out the most harmful plastic products, and chemicals and polymers of concern, and ensures a non-toxic circular economy for the remaining plastics.
We stand ready, to support the INC and all Members on such progress. I thank you Chair.