INC-4 Plenary statement (Closing)

Thank you, Chair, my name is Zaynab Sadan, and I am speaking on behalf of WWF.

The critical progress that Member States had made this week, and that we must continue to make from now until INC-5, cannot be overstressed. We must remember that plastic pollution is an ongoing crisis, that continues to unfold and accelerate, as we speak.

In the next three seconds, when I finish this sentence, one more metric ton of plastics entered into the marine environment. Every year, at least 11 million metric tons of more plastics enter our oceans.

With the mandate to negotiate the treaty, in UNEA Resolution 5/14, 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 life cycle of plastics.

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 fulfil YOUR promise to people, and nature.

For intersessional work: Formal working groups, informal initiatives, ministerial leadership, consultations, technical expertise and participation of observers—we need all hands on deck, to create a treaty that can end plastic pollution. Together, we CAN achieve this challenging task, if we choose to do so. The people, scientists, civil society and businesses are on your side, to make this happen.

WWF commends the Chair’s leadership this week, in guiding the INC to deliver its mandate. This leadership, and the cooperative spirit of Member States, will be imperative to the necessary intersessional progress. Together we must ensure a legally binding treaty — that reduces overall production, bans and phases out the most harmful plastic products, and chemicals and polymers of concern, ensures a non-toxic circular economy, and enable all Parties to effectively implement their obligations through the necessary means of implementation.

We are ready, and eager to support the INC on such progress. I thank you Chair.