

## Opening Statement for INC4 on Behalf of Like-Minded Countries

Esteemed Chair, distinguished delegates, on behalf of the Like-Minded Countries, allow me to express our heartfelt gratitude and extend warm congratulations to you.

Our sincere appreciation goes to the Government of Canada and INC secretariat for their gracious hospitality in hosting this pivotal gathering. Their warm welcome sets the stage for what we anticipate will be a constructive and impactful dialogue.

**Guided by the mandate set forth in UNEA 5/14**, our objective is crystal clear: to refine our focus and refine the draft text into a document that is **not only clear and concise but also actionable**. This will empower us to navigate these negotiations with efficiency and efficacy.

However, efficiency alone cannot suffice. We must anchor our deliberations in the bedrock of **core principles of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) and sustainable development**. It is imperative that any policy framework acknowledges national circumstances and disparate capacities and circumstances of developing countries, particularly ensuring that **they are not unduly burdened**.

While for **developed nations**, acknowledging that the largest share of historical plastic pollution originated in developed countries and of the technologies and resources they command, this necessitates a robust commitment to taking lead to address plastic pollution and supporting means of implementation, including financial and technological assistance, including technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, to developing countries. Such support is indispensable for facilitating the transition to sustainable practices and equitable waste management solutions.

Let us engage in discussions guided by these principles, focusing on areas of shared concern while remaining open to constructive dialogue. **Inclusivity and consensus-building are paramount**, drawing strength from the diverse perspectives represented in this forum.

Moreover, as we chart a course towards a new treaty, let us heed the imperative of complementarity, **avoiding duplication and leveraging existing international frameworks**. By aligning our efforts with relevant conventions and instruments, we can amplify our impact and deliver tangible outcomes.

As we convene at this critical juncture, the urgency of our task is clear. While time presses upon us, we must resist the temptation to hasten towards an agreement devoid of **substance and equity**. A hurried accord risks diluting our collective efforts against plastic pollution. Let us instead prioritize **quality over expediency**.

The eyes of the world are upon us, demanding tangible progress. Let us depart from INC4 with a clear path forward, laying the groundwork for a successful INC5 and,

ultimately, an instrument that is **attainable, realistic** and in line with our shared goals of **sustainable development**.

In closing, we reaffirm our unwavering commitment to this process. We stand in solidarity with our esteemed Chair and the Secretariat, guided by a shared vision to address plastic pollution.

Thank you.