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Opening statement of the ITUC at the Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution (INC-4)
(23 April 2024, Ottawa, Canada)

Thank you Mr Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates.

The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) is the global voice of the world's working people representing 200 million workers organized in 337 affiliated organisations in 167 countries and territories.

The labour group reviewed the zero draft and wishes to bring to the attention of INC-4 negotiators that the [Just Transition concept - as per the ILO definition](#) - and Occupational Health and Safety (OSH) must be at the heart of the Treaty, whose text must contain:

1. a comprehensive coverage of ALL workers along the supply chain of plastic and waste, both upstream and downstream, regardless of employment status
2. concrete, adequate measures to ensure a [Just Transition \(JT\)](#) throughout the development of the national action plans and their implementation
3. the respect of the fundamental labour rights as per the ILO Decent Work framework and adequate social protection coverage for all concerned workers;
4. references and concrete measures to uphold workers' occupational health and safety related to plastic product and plastic pollution, including ILO C.170, C.155, C.187,
5. social dialogue with workers' organisations at all stages of the negotiation process and implementation;
6. adequate measures, funding and industrial policies negotiated on a tripartite basis to guarantee the employability, up- and re-skilling for all workers in the transition away from single-use plastic production and plastic waste
7. equity, transparency, fairness and participation all along the process.

Furthermore, we request the setup of Intersessional Expert Groups on Just Transition, waste management systems, financing, and stakeholder engagement. [The scenario note for INC-4 at point F](#) mentions that the Chair is open to having intersessional work be carried out between INC-4 and INC-5. The Intersessional expert group on Just Transition and waste management requires the main involvement of the International Labour Organisation, and workers' representation: we are available to provide our expertise to the negotiators on these key topics.

Thank you for your attention.