

U.S. National Statement for INC-4: General views on document UNEP/PP/INC.4/3 on the revised draft text of the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment

We thank the Government of Canada, the new Chair, Ambassador Luis Vayas Valdivieso, and the Secretariat for their hard work preparing for, and hosting, this session of the INC. We also appreciate Canada for hosting Partnerships Day on Earth Day, which reinforced the urgency of solving this crisis and the need to engage stakeholders and partners across society, including at all levels of government as well as with Indigenous Peoples, youth, civil society, and the private sector.

The United States is pleased to be working with INC Members and observers towards an ambitious and effective global instrument that will galvanize concerted global action to protect human health and the environment from plastic pollution. We have listened to Members and observers at prior INCs and in other engagements; we have heard many constructive ideas and proposals on how to seek global change through this instrument. The revised draft text reflects a number of such ideas, and the United States supports using the revised draft text at INC-4 as the starting point and basis of our negotiations here in Ottawa.

The United States supports meaningful and achievable universal binding obligations for Parties to address plastic pollution throughout the lifecycle of plastic. We support obligations to reduce emissions and releases of hazardous pollutants from plastic production facilities and waste management facilities handling plastic waste. We also support binding obligations to reduce the demand for primary plastic polymers, including by establishing public procurement policies to reduce plastic waste, and to improve product design and performance measures, which would drive down the need for production of virgin plastic. We consider strengthened waste management approaches, including preventing practices such as open dumping and open burning and facilitating extended producer responsibility, as key components to address plastic pollution.

We intend to advocate for these universal obligations at INC-4. We also believe that it is important for the instrument to acknowledge the human health and environmental impacts of hazardous pollutants during extraction. We will be proposing that such language be considered during our discussion of the preamble. We look forward to hearing views from other INC Members on our proposals and hope they will help us move forward and bring us closer to an instrument that will effectively deliver on the mandate from UNEA 5/14.

The United States also recognizes the need for a modern and effective financial architecture under this instrument that reflects current economic and capacity conditions. This architecture should generate the maximum resources to support action by having as broad of a donor base as possible. The limited resources available from the financial mechanism should go to countries most in need that are truly dependent on such resources for implementation. And of course, every country will have to mobilize its own domestic resources to support efforts to reduce plastic pollution.

We underscore the importance of, and our commitment to, making progress at INC-4 and to finding a common path forward. The United States remains committed to our agreed goal to finalize the text by the end of 2024. To this end, we believe targeted intersessional work can contribute substantially to reaching convergence on a final text at INC-5. It is our hope that together we will develop an instrument that all countries, including major producers and consumers of plastic, will join. We will not be able to achieve success unless we all -- national and sub-national governments, Indigenous Peoples, civil society, the private sector, academia, and citizens -- work together. We look forward to a constructive discussion at INC-4.