Statement by the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) at INC-4

Closing Session

Ottawa, Canada – 29 April 2024

Delivered by: Vanuatu on behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States

Thank you Mr. Chair,

Vanuatu, delivers this statement on behalf of the 14 Pacific Small Island Developing States and aligns with the closing statement that will be delivered by Samoa, on behalf of AOSIS at a later time.

We would like to start by expressing our genuine appreciation to the Government of Canada and its people hosting this INC. In particular we acknowledge the Algonquin Anishsinaabeg on whose unceded traditional territory we have been meeting.

Chair, we are truly grateful for your leadership and firm direction in advancing INC-4 to where we are tonight. We understand that this week has been tough, particularly with the varying levels of progress across the different subgroups; but through it all, you and your team have carefully balanced the interests of all members.

Chair, there is agreement for the need for intersessional work in order to help successfully deliver the mandate set out in UNEA 5/14. While the areas of inter-sessional topics may not cover the full range of issues, which are of priority to Pacific SIDS, we do welcome the opportunity to engage on the current proposal.
Following the mandate to address the full lifecycle of plastics, we look forward to INC-5 where the Committee can once again engage in active and fruitful discussion on issues of primary plastic polymers, and polymers of concern, as these are priority issues for the Pacific. To ensure that this is fully acknowledged and recognized, our request is for you, Chair, to compile a scientific and technical report covering the baselines and sustainable levels of production and consumption of primary plastic polymers, including information on imports and exports, where available. Chair, such a report will resource Member states with adequate information to constructively engage during the final session of negotiations.

The Pacific SIDS will continue to engage with the same level of ambition as we have for the first four negotiation sessions. We remain committed to work and see this legally binding instrument finalized.

Chair, the Pacific SIDS remain steadfast to see this INC process through until the very end. Let us end plastic pollution together.

Thank you Mr. Chair.