PADI AWARE Foundation Statement to INC-4

The PADI AWARE Foundation, with support from the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) congratulate the work of the INC Secretariat and all Member States for their tireless work in progressing the draft of the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. We would also like to thank the government of Canada for their generosity in hosting the INC-4 meeting.

The PADI AWARE Foundation represents the views of approximately 30 million recreational divers, 129,000 members of the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) and over 6,600 dive operators in 184 countries.

Recent scientific research estimates that approximately 11 million tons of plastic pollution could be found on the seafloor as of 2020, with other research concluding that over 90% of plastic pollution entering the ocean sinks to the seafloor. The PADI AWARE Foundation has been conducting a global citizen science initiative, Dive Against Debris, in partnership with recreational divers worldwide, to collect and collate marine debris found on the seafloor. Plastic items are by far the most ubiquitous items found around the world. With projections for global plastic production to double by 2040, urgent action is required with strong and ambitious measures needed to end the flow of plastic into our oceans, rivers and waterways.

The recreational diving sector contributes a significant proportion of the economies of many countries, especially in many Small Island Developing States, providing employment opportunities in the Blue Economy, yet is impacted by the effects of plastic pollution in the marine environment.

The recreational diving community want to see a Global Plastics Treaty that:

- Ends the production of avoidable and unnecessary plastic products
- Includes a requirement to remove existing plastic pollution in a manner that does not damage fragile marine and freshwater habitats
- Mandates National Action Plans to monitor the marine and freshwater environment to ensure the Treaty meets its objectives

The PADI AWARE Foundation and all PADI divers and operators extend our offer of assistance to use the sector to help meet ambitious objectives.

Thank you

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