



Contact Group 4
Statement by Samoa on behalf of Small Island Developing States
INC-5

26 November 2024

Preamble

On **preamble**, we have made a number of interventions on the principle of the special circumstances of SIDS. We will not accept an agreement that does not fully recognise and articulate the special circumstances of SIDS as established and agreed in multiple consensus agreed international documents over the past few decades. The special needs of developing countries should not be conflated with the special circumstances of SIDS.

Our unique geographic characteristics, remoteness, limited landmass, small populations, small domestic markets, limited natural resources, and particular vulnerabilities constitute our special circumstances. These special circumstances which mean that plastic pollution has a disproportionate impact on SIDS and dealing with plastic pollution will pose a disproportionate burden on SIDS.

We suggest the only following text for the preamble:

1. Recognizing the special interests and needs of developing countries,
2. Recognizing the special circumstances of small island developing states, and of least developed countries,

In addition, we think that the following elements could be included in the preamble:

- Elaboration of the need for an urgent global response to combat plastic pollution because of its universal and transboundary nature;
- Identification of the impacts on human health, livelihoods, food security, economies and the environment, particularly the marine environment;
- Underscore the importance of complementarity, coordination and cooperation within the international legal framework, where appropriate;
- Recalling the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- Recalling the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;
- Recalling the Barbados Programme of Action for SIDS;
- Considering the need to mobilize new and additional financial resources and access to technology for developing countries to combat plastic pollution; and,
- The need for the instrument to be backed by strong scientific evidence and Indigenous People, and local knowledge systems. The instrument should consider a wide range of approaches, as there is no one-size-fits-all approach to ending plastic pollution.