U.S. intervention at INC-2
Agenda item 4 – general views on document UNEP/PP/INC.2/4 on potential options for elements towards an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution

- We thank the Government of France and UNEP for their hard work to support this INC session.
- The United States, as one of the largest producers and consumers of plastics and a large generator of plastic waste, needs to be an integral part of solving the plastic pollution crisis.
- We are pleased to see that many of us are championing the ambitious goal of eliminating the release of plastic into the environment by 2040.
- We seek an ambitious and innovative instrument that contains a range of obligations, commitments, and voluntary approaches to take measures designed to prevent and reduce the flow of plastic into the environment in order to protect human health and the environment.
- These obligations and commitments should promote sustainable production and consumption of plastic, transition to more circular approaches for plastic, and strengthen environmentally sound waste management.
- We see a wide range of potential measures, some of which could be common for all Parties and others that would be nationally determined actions.
- Each Party should submit, update, and regularly report on national action plans that detail how a Party would contribute to the agreement’s objective. Transparency is essential.
- The instrument should allow flexibility in addressing different problems at various stages of the plastic lifecycle, consistent with national circumstances and priorities, thereby maximizing ambition.
- Sufficient support will be necessary for countries most in need.
- We also recognize the important environmental justice concerns related to plastic pollution and support a call to action on protecting our respective vulnerable communities.
- We need to start developing the multi-stakeholder action agenda, as that can complement the work of national governments.
- Taken together, we believe such an approach will drive progress, encourage innovation, preserve necessary flexibility, and bring together as many as possible to work toward ending plastic pollution.
- We applaud the Secretariat’s work in preparing the document on potential elements.
- We look forward to an open process this week to hear from Members, without pre-judging outcomes.
- We support moving into substantive discussions in contact groups as quickly as possible.
• The contact group facilitators should structure the discussion to facilitate the development of a zero-draft text.

• We should cover objectives, obligations and voluntary approaches, and national action plans in the same contact group.

• This would reflect the importance that many Members ascribe to national action plan provisions and facilitate consideration of the relationship between common substantive provisions and national action plans.

• Such an approach would help ensure differing views on the overall approach and structure of the instrument are well-reflected in a zero-draft text.

• We also propose that compliance be removed from contact group discussions until there is a substantive discussion in plenary on this topic.

• We hope to request a zero-draft text for INC-3, based on the interventions from countries at INC-2 in plenary, any summaries from the facilitators of contact and informal groups, as well as any relevant Secretariat documents.

• The United States believes the Chair, in consultation with the Secretariat and group facilitators, should develop the draft text.

• Our priority for the intersessional period before INC-3 is the development of a zero-draft text. It is premature to form intersessional working groups before Members have considered the zero-draft text.

• The U.S. delegation looks forward to working together this week, as we delve into the potential elements of a new instrument that ambitiously tackles plastic pollution.