NGO Closing Statement for INC-3

Sunday, 19 November 2023

**Delivered by:** Christopher Chin  
Executive Director  
The Center for Oceanic Awareness, Research, and Education (COARE)

**On behalf of:** UN Environment NGO Major Group

We would first like to remind members of this committee to refer to the original mandate set forth, and that this instrument must address the full lifecycle of plastic.

We remind members that the lifecycle of plastic impedes every single one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and threatens ALL human rights, not just the right to a healthy environment.

We would like to recognize and thank the Scientists' Coalition for an effective Plastics Treaty for their work and contributions, and we would encourage members to embrace the work they have done. While there is always more to learn, we urge members to recognize that there is overwhelmingly abundant science that shows we MUST take swift action to protect our planet – and ourselves.

While innovation is a natural human creative characteristic, we would like to caution members against the pursuit of complex technologies and so-called innovative financing such as credit schemes. The potential for greenwashing in this arena is perilous. We also warn against false solutions like chemical recycling, incineration, and waste-to-energy. These are not the silver bullets some believe them to be. We remind members that the simplest solution and approach is clear; we MUST reduce production of primary plastic polymers, and we must quickly prohibit and phase out problematic and avoidable plastics.

We firmly believe that transparency in the lifecycle of plastics is important to identify and avoid harmful substances, but transparency is also important in our discussions and deliberations.

With the very industry creating plastic and plastic pollution weighing in so strongly in the discussion of possible solutions, the conflicts of interests are painfully obvious. We must recognize and understand that some parties in this room do not have our collective interests at heart. If a delegate – or those they represent – stands to profit from the status quo, or from a proposed solution, it is imperative that we are aware of that relationship, and how they may profit. Such relationships should be clear and publicly noted.

While much work has been completed, we have very little time to complete our ambitious mandate, and we support the call for intersessional work before the next meeting in Ottawa, including discussion of contentious issues.

We look forward to continuing these conversations intersessionally, and in Ottawa.