HAC Member States Joint Ministerial Statement for INC-2

Mauritius has the honour to deliver remarks on behalf the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution. The Coalition would like to thank the government of France for hosting us and the Secretariat for all its work in preparing us for this session.

The High Ambition Coalition believes the Options for Elements paper provides a sufficient basis to discuss our members’ priorities as outlined in our Ministerial Statement, which is supported by 56 Ministers.

The Coalition calls for binding provisions in the treaty to restrain and reduce the production and consumption of primary plastic polymers to sustainable levels.

We also call for binding provisions to eliminate and restrict unnecessary, avoidable, or problematic plastics, as well as the plastic polymers, chemical constituents and plastic products of particular concern due to their adverse effects on the environment and human health, taking into account the precautionary principle and considering their impact on circularity.

We also call for binding provisions in the treaty to increase the safe circularity of plastics in the economy, guided by the waste hierarchy, including by focusing on reduction of avoidable, unnecessary and problematic plastics, and ensuring only plastic products adhering to a set of agreed criteria are produced, imported, exported and put on the market.

The High Ambition Coalition calls for parties to commit to targets in key areas, such as on reduction, repairability, environmentally sound and safe recyclability and reuse, refill systems, and the use of recycled content.
We call for binding provisions to ensure reporting and transparency in production quantities, material, chemical and product composition, traceability and labelling across plastics value chains to provide the production and product information necessary to ensure accountability throughout the value chain.

The Coalition calls for binding provisions to prevent plastic waste in the first place, and, if avoidance is not possible, to manage plastic waste in an environmentally sound and safe manner, consistent with other international instruments.

We call for binding provisions to eliminate the release of plastics, including microplastics, to air, water (both inland and marine) and land, and measures to address specific sources of plastic pollution, including but not limited to microplastics intentionally added in products, the release of plastic pellets and loss of fishing gear, building on other international instruments.

We call for binding provisions in the treaty for the mobilisation of the means of implementation from all sources necessary to deliver action on the ground to end plastic pollution.

Finally, the High Ambition Coalition calls for provisions to remediate existing plastic pollution, recognizing its disproportionate negative socio-economic and environmental consequences in developing countries. Such remediation should be undertaken in an environmentally sound manner and in accordance with scientific and evidence-based social, economic and environmental impact assessments and national circumstances, using the best available techniques and environmental practices to avoid exacerbating environmental harm.

The High Ambition Coalition looks forward to beginning substantive discussions in the contact groups.

Thank you.