

**Iceland**

**General Statement, INC-1, Punta del Este, 28 November 2022**

Thank you Chair,

It is a joyful occasion to be here in Punta del Este at INC-1, our thanks go to Uruguay for the excellent arrangements in hosting this meeting.

Iceland's concern about plastic pollution is rooted in our vital connection to the ocean. We note with concern that plastic pollution is accumulating in our seas, killing marine life and affecting the health of marine ecosystems, which will ultimately have an impact on human health. We need to reverse negative trends and halt plastic pollution. We think the best way to achieve this is to establish a truly circular economy for plastic, addressing all parts of the life cycle, from production to the minimization and effective management of waste.

An international scientific symposium held last year brought a spotlight to the fact that plastic waste and microplastics are found widely in the Arctic, far from sources. This shows that plastic pollution has a global reach, requiring a global response; which we can and must provide here and now, at INC-1.

We want to see this first negotiation session firmly establish our practical framework. We want to see a start to substantive negotiations here in an effective manner, including on objectives, control measures, means of implementation and institutional arrangements. Iceland is a part of the High Ambition Coalition to end plastic pollution, and supports its vision for the way forward, as presented by Georgia on behalf of the Coalition here.

Iceland supports the active involvement of civil society and business in this process.

Let us use the opportunity in the wonderful settings here to create a momentum that will enable us to fulfil our mandate to deliver an ambitious agreement in 2024 - and ultimately, to end plastic pollution, in our seas and everywhere.

Thank you,