

**International Chamber of Commerce**  
**Statement Opening Plenary**  
**Intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC1) on plastic pollution**  
**Punta del Este, 28 November 2022**

Mister Chairman,

Your Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

- My name is Raelene Martin and it is my honor to address you on behalf of the International Chamber of Commerce – the largest business organization, representing millions of companies, of all sizes and sectors in over 100 countries, including small and medium enterprises that are the lynchpin of the global economy.
- Let me start by extending our sincere thanks to the INC Secretariat for their efforts in preparing this first INC meeting and Multistakeholder Forum, and to the Government of Uruguay for hosting us in this beautiful city.
- We heartily congratulate the Executive Secretary of the INC and the newly appointed Chair of the bureau for their appointments, and reiterate our full support as the business community to work alongside you all -- the UNEP Secretariat, all countries and stakeholders for the imperative charge and task that lies ahead, and as we seize the opportunity for collective action and meaningful change.
- We fully commend the Executive Director of UNEP and her team, and all countries for establishing a common goal and critical path for a global treaty to end plastic pollution.
- We stand at a pivotal point in history for the future of humanity and our planet.
- The global business community acknowledges the importance and urgency to tackle the critical issue of plastic pollution and is already taking active steps to address this issue.

- However, much more needs to be done to leverage the energy, capacities and expertise of the business community to scale up its actions as an actor for positive change.
- One key driver in this process will be an ambitious, workable and effective legally binding instrument with global rules that would help guide and enable businesses to become positive actors in transitioning to a circular economy for plastics.
- The right enabling frameworks for the real economy will be key to unlock the potential in the private sector to address plastic pollution across the value chain. This includes research and development, innovation, and sustainable production.
- Deliberations over the coming days can help us set the stage for a successful outcome and we urge all countries to seize this opportunity to work with business and all stakeholders to establish an inclusive, efficient and effective negotiating process to tackle our common goal of ending plastic pollution.
- A coordinated, concerted and holistic approach with respect to design, use and reuse of plastics, that is based on a common vision and shared global goal will be critically needed.
- We believe that multistakeholder engagement can help member states to secure and implement the deal, and that all businesses - large and small, from all sectors and geographies - have a critical role to play in supporting member states with expertise and the solutions to tackle the challenge of plastic pollution, at the required scale and speed across its entire value chains.
- We acknowledge, and greatly welcome the recognition of business as a key stakeholder in the process as well as the implementation of the instrument.

Distinguished Delegates,

Dear Colleagues,

Now more than ever, we recognise that overcoming the challenges and achieving our goals requires a collaborative effort by all stakeholders.

We are pleased to be present here as you chart the way forward to create the conditions for an effective negotiating process, and stand ready to engage constructively in the discussions that lie ahead to help governments find common ground in achieving the agreements' objective.

Thank you.

2 December 2022

**International Chamber of Commerce  
Statement Closing Plenary  
Intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC1) on plastic pollution  
Punta del Este, 28 November 2022**

Mister Chairman,

Your Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen –

My name is [X] from [X] and it is my honor to address you on behalf of the International Chamber of Commerce.

We would like to start by extending our gratitude to you, Mr. Chair, to the INC Secretariat and to all the Parties present here, for a committed, collaborative and constructive engagement in the discussions as we witnessed these past 5 days.

If there is one message, we would like to convey at the closing session of this first INC meeting, is that we are certain that the global business community is deeply committed to support the efforts to secure an ambitious, workable and effective

international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution by 2024.

We very much welcomed the opportunity to engage in the multi-stakeholder dialogue at this meeting. It provided a unique and invaluable instance to give impulse to the multilateral and multilevel exchange and collaboration we critically need. We encourage the Secretariat to build on its success and further strengthen the format and modalities for the continued engagement of the business community, from all sectors and sizes, and all stakeholders.

We particularly appreciated the expressions of Member States this week regarding the critical role of business and industry in achieving a successful outcome. We stand ready to accelerate our efforts and inform and engage actively in forthcoming sessions by providing experience and expertise, and solutions.

But we can only go so far on our own.

We now look to Parties to set the foundations for a harmonised and coordinated regulatory framework, with clear targets and goals, that can help guide businesses actions and investments at the required scale and speed, and across the entire value chains and enable business to become positive drivers of a circular economy for plastics.

We welcome progress made this week on both the procedural elements and more importantly on the concrete aspects to guide and frame the Committee's work going forward structuring the content of the instrument.

We agree of course than an effective treaty should address the full life cycle of plastics, including upstream and downstream measures, with particular focus on reduction, reuse, recovery and recycling. A balance of legally binding and voluntary elements for effective implementation and broad participation will be critical.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

We all know much work still remains to be done to ensure that we achieve the objective we want to attain.

Let us build on the achievements made at this meeting, the partnerships and collaborations created and together speed up and advance the critical work towards an ambitious treaty to end plastic pollution.

Thank you.