

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.