

Second Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC-2), Paris, from 29 May to 2 June 2023

Statement by the International Labour Office

Moustapha Kamal Gueye, Director of the Priority Action Programme on Just transitions towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies, International Labour Organization (ILO)

Your Excellency Ambassador Gustavo Meza-Cuadra, Chair of the INC, delegates, observers, ladies, and gentlemen,

Ending plastic pollution requires the full engagement of all actors in the real economy: governments, enterprises, workers, and communities.

Building on the potential of social dialogue, we can collectively set ambition high for an international instrument addressing plastic pollution through a lifecycle approach and circular economies.

We have a positive narrative. Ending plastic pollution in a coordinated manner has the potential to stimulate innovation and sustainable enterprise development, generate new decent jobs, advance social justice, and achieve of a just transition for all.

International Labour Standards provide a solid foundation to build upon to design an international instrument against plastic pollution, fully embedding the social dimensions of this critical ecological transition.

Occupational Safety and Health as a fundamental labour right, is critical to protect all workers against harmful exposures throughout the lifecycle of plastics.

Small, micro, and medium-sized enterprises, actors in the social and solidarity economy, and workers and economic units in the informal economy are active agents of change in this process.

The *ILO Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all* provide a framework for action and a rights-based approach to achieve well-managed, environmentally sustainable economies and societies.

The ILO reaffirms its unwavering commitment to work with all member States and observers to advance social justice and promote decent work in the global response to plastic pollution.

Thank you.