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**UN AD-HOC OPEN ENDED WORKING GROUP, AGENDA ITEM 4
PLENARY STATEMENT BY WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE
DELIVERED ON 18 NOVEMBER 2019**

Thank you, Madam Chair and good afternoon distinguished delegates,

I am speaking on behalf of the World Wide Fund for Nature.

Many of you would have picked up this brochure on your table. A global study has found that each of us could be consuming 5 grams of plastic every week - the weight of a credit card. Our pollution of the ocean with plastic is coming back to us through the microplastics found in our air, food and water.

WWF is here on behalf of 1.5 million people from all over the world that have signed our online petition to put a stop to this.

And they have recognised that the current approach is not working.

- we lack a common methodology for measuring the problem,
- we lack a system for reviewing actions and activities by states,
- we lack a global mechanism for technical and financial support,
- and we lack an agreed set of rules and obligations for tackling the problem.

The 1.5 million people who signed our petition are looking to you – the international community – for an effective global response: They are asking for a new global treaty to end marine plastic pollution.

We are encouraged to see momentum growing. In the past six months alone, over 40 countries have publicly declared their support for a global treaty on plastic pollution. This includes regional declarations by the Caribbean, the Pacific and the Nordic countries.

With these expert group meetings, we now have a valuable opportunity to move the discussion forward by exploring what the possible elements of such a new treaty might look like and contribute constructively to these deliberations.

Finally, let me add that, like Sweden, we will also provide the secretariat with an updated version of our submission from the last expert group meeting in Geneva.

Thank you.

Ends