Dear Excellencies, Mr Chair, Madame Secretariat, Distinguished Delegates and UNEP colleagues.

I am here today representing the United Nations Global Compact. 16,000 member companies and 70 local networks. A key part of our mandate is to mobilize the private sector to be part of the solutions to climate and nature challenges. The private sector’s insights and capacity to innovate, invest and deploy technological solutions will be instrumental for us all to meet the targets.

First and foremost, we recognize the need and urgency to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. Plastic pollution affects the environment, climate, and human health.

The ocean industries hold a special responsibility to not pollute the ocean. Although most waste entering the oceans originates from land-based industries, ropes and fishnets constitute a large and long-term challenge. Under the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) GloLitter Partnerships Project, we have convened key industry stakeholders to address marine plastic litter in the shipping and fishing industries by setting new guidelines and financial mechanisms for companies to comply with the MARPOL regulations.

Ropes constitute 7.9 percent of all plastic waste in the ocean, a universal product utilized in all maritime sectors. Annually, global shipping fleets use and discard about 70 million ropes a year. For each ship owner, each captain, and worker, a large amount of plastic ropes being used and disposed of at ports without a sustainable plan is a growing collective concern.

To address the life cycle of plastic ropes and other waste originating from ocean operations, we need to reuse, reduce and recycle.

For all these three, we must engage and collaborate with stakeholders involved across the value chain and, at the same time, understand the legal landscape regulating plastic on board and land. It is hence, important that the Basel and the Marpol annex V Conventions are recognized at all stages when developing a plastic treaty.

We are working on developing Global Business Standards and Guidances with the IMO and the FAO addressing the legal and business challenges and opportunities in handling ropes. This must be a Science-Based Approach and become a market mechanism globally.

An international treaty on plastic must send clear policies and regulations that take into account the full life cycle of plastics, addressing gaps that voluntary commitments cannot fill. It’s critical to look into the various aspects around plastic pollution, from its production, to its uses from packaging to consumer goods, to their disposal, collection, reuse and recycling. It’s also imperative to work across regions, ensuring common standards and practices globally. Finally, in line with the ambition of the MultiStakeholder Forum, we would like the role of the private sector to be recognised as part of the solution in future INC negotiations.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

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