

First Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Micro-plastics

Business and Industry Major Group Intervention Regarding UNEP/AHEG/2018/1/2

On behalf of the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) and the World Plastics Council (WPC) under the Business and Industry Major Group, I would like to provide the following statement regarding the discussion paper on barriers to combating marine litter and microplastics, including challenges related to resources in developing countries.

We support many of the statements made by the member states. On the issue of waste management infrastructure, we believe a key barrier to addressing marine debris is a lack of local economic and regulatory policies and incentives to enable and encourage investment in waste management systems. This includes a lack of political and legal stability necessary for long term investments in local infrastructure by governments, international development banks, the private sector, and others.

In the area of data collection, we support interventions of other member states regarding the need for better scientific data. Measures to address marine litter and microplastics should be considered and taken upon sufficient scientific knowledge.

A significant barrier to working across jurisdictions is the lack of harmonized definitions for items such microplastics and single-use plastics.

I note in the UNEP discussion paper that 'insufficient involvement by industry in solutions' was listed as a barrier and would like to clarify that industry is and remains committed to bringing solutions to the table and collaborating with stakeholders to address all aspects of marine litter. For example, the Global Plastics Alliance has undertaken over 350 projects in 40 countries to address marine debris. The World Plastics Council and others in the plastic industry are supporting development of Closed Loop Ocean, a fund to finance waste management infrastructure in developing economies. Industry is also accelerating global implementation throughout the value chain of [Operation Clean Sweep](#) to prevent the accidental loss of plastic resin into the environment.

I would further note that the plastics industry supports responsible consumption of plastics and has also established circular economy goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to intervene on behalf of the Business and Industry Major Group.