

U.S. national statement for OEWG on plastic pollution

- Thank you to the Government of Senegal for hosting this meeting and for their leadership.
- We also mourn those who were lost in the fire in Tivaouane last week. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families.
- Thank you as well to UNEP for its organization of the meeting and preparation of meeting documents. We know this was not an easy task.
- Plastic pollution is a global crisis that does not respect borders and requires a strong international response.
- We must build on the collaborative spirit that led us to take a crucial first step at UNEA 5.2 to launch the negotiation of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution.
- We should create an agreement that drives long-term ambition, action and understanding on combating plastic pollution, protecting the environment, and understanding potential risk to human health from plastic pollution.
- In doing so, we must also recognize that while we need coordinated international action, there is no one-size-fits-all solution to combat plastic pollution.
- A new global agreement should require parties to contribute to a common objective through ambitious national action plans reflecting country-driven approaches.
- In the aggregate, we believe an agreement reflecting country-driven approaches will drive ambition and innovation by enabling parties to apply measures across the lifecycle of plastics that are tailored to their particular circumstances.
- We are fortunate to have strong interest from a diverse set of stakeholders. The private sector, environmental groups, and other stakeholders have been actively working on solutions to this global crisis, and we must continue to work with them to leverage investment, innovation, and global action to make real progress.
- We can work with stakeholders beyond our typical engagement by initiating a Multi-Stakeholder Action Agenda. The action agenda can bring together leaders in the private sector and NGOs and elsewhere to mobilize technical and financial resources, carry through on commitments to address plastic pollution, share best practices, and contribute substantially to the agreement's objectives.
- We look forward to continuing that collaborative spirit that led us to success in Nairobi as we work together at the OEWG in this beautiful venue.
- We thank UNEP for organizing the OEWG so quickly after the UNEA, and we have much to discuss over the next three days.
- We need to consider the timetable of INC meetings that will ensure ample time for negotiations and support meeting our end-of-2024 goal.
- We need to prepare a rules of procedure for consideration and adoption by the INC that will support a constructive and productive process for developing a global agreement. We hope to identify the bureau of the INC this week.
- We hope the location and time of INC-1 will be identified soon to enable plenty of time for all of us to prepare and to accommodate any changes related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- We look forward to working with all of you this week as we embark on this exciting and momentous process to take decisive action against plastic pollution.