

Dear Mdm. Chair, Excellences, ladies and gentlemen

As speaking the first time we would first like to thank Thailand for welcoming us in your country and the UN Environment Programme for organizing this meeting.

The World Plastics Council is representing multinational plastics raw material producers from all continents around the world.

Products made of plastics are essential to build a resource efficient society. Plastics have to be applied, used and disposed responsibly.

And it is unacceptable that plastic waste and litter is ending up in the environment or ocean.

Plastics raw material producers are **significantly driving innovation**.

We are working with all stakeholders around the world, developing solutions making products fully recyclable, using waste as a resource and building the value chains and business models needed to make plastics circular.

To that extend, many of our members together with the value chain have initiated the **Alliance to End Plastic Waste** which has committed 1.5bn USD over 5 years to build waste management infrastructure, support innovation, education and engagement and clean-up together with all stakeholders.

Since 2011 and until today 75 associations from 40 countries take action under the Global Declaration on Marine Litter Solutions, supporting and implementing until today more than 350 projects and are highly committed to support all stakeholders to prevent plastics waste getting into the environment and becoming a resource.

We are looking forward to sharing more information on these new initiatives and how we may be able to further collaborate as productive partners to address the marine litter and microplastics challenge.

The **mandate given to this group by UNEA-4 is important** and we must work efficiently during this expert group meeting to make progress on the long-term elimination of discharges of plastic waste into the oceans causing marine litter and microplastics.

Thank you very much.