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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**

Dear Madam Chair and 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.

The world has produced more plastic in the last 20 years, than the history of mankind combined. Our over consumption and mismanagement is now coming back to us. Microplastics have been found in our food chain, water and air. If you drink beer or eat seafood – well, it's there too.

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

Like all of us here at the United Nations, they know that this is not a problem that belongs only in their country – but one that we all share. **They demand a new global treaty to end marine plastic pollution.**

The last two UNEAs recognised the need for a global governance structure.

1. We lack a permanent body that can provide us with global scientific knowledge.
2. We lack a common methodology on how to measure the problem.
3. We lack a global support mechanism to help developing countries invest in solutions.
4. And we lack a harmonised regulatory framework to ensure an efficient response.

UNEA-4, in our opinion, failed to deliver concrete recommendations to address this crisis.

But since then, the rules for trade in plastic waste have been strengthened, and the G20 has agreed to a zero plastic leakage goal by 2050.

Since then, 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.
- Just last Friday, the 54 countries in Africa collectively called for global action and suggested a new global agreement as an option to be explored.

We stand at the starting point of three meetings leading up to UNEA-5, we have a valuable opportunity to get it right.

So on behalf of 1.5 million people, we urge all states to explore the elements of what a future global agreement on marine plastic pollution could look like.

You are all invited to a WWF Side Event tomorrow evening, where we hope to continue this conversation. You can find more details in this brochure.

Thank you.

Ends