

29 April 2024

**International Chamber of Commerce
Statement Closing Plenary
Intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC4) on plastic pollution
Ottawa, 29 April 2024**

Mister Chairman,

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen – My name is Sandra Hanni, from the International Chamber of Commerce and it is my honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the global business community.

We extend our sincere gratitude to you, Mr. Chair, to the INC Secretariat and to all Parties for the hard work and dedication to this process.

If there is one message, we would like to convey today, is that the global business community at large stands resolutely and squarely behind the goal to secure an ambitious, effective and workable

internationally legally binding instrument by the end of this year – one that addresses the full life-cycle of plastic.

We were gratified to observe that Parties here at INC-4 have taken some important steps in the right direction. But much work still remains to be done and we have only very little time left.

There is a unique opportunity for this treaty to set the foundation for a truly circular economy for plastics.

Advancing work on product design as well as effective and smartly-designed EPR schemes, will be key to accelerate the creation of markets for circular products.

We also believe it will be important to address problematic and avoidable plastics – those with a high risk of leakage to the environment and that hamper an effective circular economy for plastics. These should be identified through evidence-based criteria and following an application-based approach.

These are all important elements.

But the agreement can only be successful if it is underpinned by robust means of implementation for the real economy.

Business needs effective policy frameworks – that provide real incentives and support concrete action and innovation by all companies, in particular small enterprises...

And we need frameworks that do not create unnecessary administrative burden, and complexities and that hinder international trade and access to markets.

We welcome the establishment of clear tracks for intersessional work that we hope can help identify elements for building common ground. We stand ready to contribute.

Business has a critical role in delivering the changes, solutions and the investments.

But we need you, Parties, to set the direction, show commitment and provide clarity.

Distinguished delegates,

The task ahead is enormous. Let us move forward together -- with urgency and courage and deliver a successful outcome in Busan.

Thank you.