

**International Chamber of Commerce
Statement Opening Plenary
Intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC4) on plastic pollution
Ottawa, 23 April 2024**

Mister Chairman,

Your Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

- My name is Raelene Martin and it is my honor to address you on behalf of the International Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business organisation.
- We extend our sincere thanks to the INC Secretariat for their tireless efforts in preparing this fourth INC meeting, and to the government of Canada for hosting us in this beautiful city.
- As ICC, we remain deeply committed to supporting Parties to secure an ambitious, effective and workable agreement by the end of 2024, that rallies all actors of society and sets the frame and direction for ambitious business action.
- At this critical juncture, it is imperative that this fourth session forges a clear path forward.
- We see three priority areas, where we would like to see tangible outcomes:
 1. First, we strongly believe that a circular economy approach should be at the heart of the treaty. With broad support to maximise circular approaches, we call on Parties to align on mechanisms to enhance circularity throughout the entire plastics life cycle, including harmonised standards and systems for product design, reduction, reuse and repair as well as effective Extended Producer Responsibility schemes.
 2. Secondly, we see an opportunity to focus discussions on addressing the most problematic and avoidable plastics, particularly those with a high risk of leakage to the

environment that hamper an effective circular economy for plastic -- any measures must be underpinned by evidence-based criteria and with an application-based approach.

3. Thirdly, and most importantly, an ambitious agreement can only be successful if backed by effective means of implementation for the real economy, that can drive real business action and innovation, and also takes into account the needs of MSMEs, in particular in developing and emerging economies.

Excellencies, distinguished Delegates,

- The task ahead is great, but not impossible. The world needs you to show determination and political will to create the conditions for success here in Ottawa -- to take forward a streamlined text for final negotiations at INC5 and to mandate intersessional work on substantive issues.
- We are committed to work with you in this historic endeavour -- together, we can and must bring the change that our planet and people deserve.

Thank you.