

DRAFT INTERVENTION

*To be delivered on November 11, 2020*

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#### AHEG-4

***Item 5: Consideration of submissions on potential response options pursuant to paragraph 10 (d) of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 3/7 on marine litter and microplastics***

*Delivered by: Tom Gammage*

Thank you Chair,

I am speaking on behalf of the Environmental Investigation Agency, the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives and the Center for International Environmental Law, members of the Break Free from Plastics movement. We would firstly like to express our wholehearted support for the interventions given by the Africa Group, Philippines, Norway, Pacific Islands and the EU. Over the past two years, it has been encouraging to see support for a new binding global agreement becoming increasingly apparent – not just from countries, regions and CSOs, but also the business community who see the added value in a global agreement, as we heard earlier today.

As noted in UNEP/AHEG/4/INF/3, the severity of this issue is worsening in direct accordance with our understanding of it. When we consider other environmental issues such as climate change and biodiversity decline, among many others, that have: (i) a deteriorating environmental trend, (ii) negative transboundary impacts, and (iii) international problem drivers, we see that a binding instrument is consistently applied.

A safe circular economy for plastics requires harmonisation and a level playing field across the global marketplace and necessitates the complicity of a broad range of stakeholders. A patchwork of voluntary commitments by a select few multinationals or countries is therefore no substitute for a dedicated global instrument.

We believe there is clear convergence on the need for an adaptive framework that coordinates global and regional action while catalysing national efforts, one that is responsive to science as well as regional and national circumstances, with mechanisms and structures in place to operationalise and institutionalise commitments.

To that end, voluntary options, while representing useful stepping stones, require further elaboration of essential elements, obligations and commitments in order to augment and effectively implement them while ensuring explicit focus on upstream action. These themes are further articulated in a working non-paper that has been submitted alongside this intervention.

Thank you