

November 12, 2020

World Plastics Council (WPC) Submission on Agenda Item 6: Preparations for the Fifth Session of the United Nations Assembly

- On behalf of the World Plastics Council (WPC), International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), our member associations, federations and companies we thank the chair, Secretariat, and participants in the 4th Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group meeting on Marine Litter and Microplastics for a set of very fruitful discussions.
- The plastics industry appreciates the opportunity to engage in this process and meetings this week.
- We welcome the opportunity to submit written responses and have done so under agenda items 4.c and 5.d.
- WPC and ICCA support statements from Member States noting the need for the summary report to follow the UNEA mandate.
- As noted previously, we strongly support the creation of a global framework to catalyze all stakeholders and scale-up global efforts to prevent the leakage of plastic waste into the environment and our ocean.
- Also noted previously, we support the creation of a flexible, transparent governance model with the following elements:
 - A clear vision and objective building on the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision to achieve zero discharge of plastic waste entering the marine environment by 2050.
 - A framework enabling a circular economy for plastics and promoting innovation — Accelerate implementation of “Sustainability by Design” approaches and the conversion of end-of-life plastic products into raw materials, reducing the generation of waste.
 - Common, transparent data collection methods and reporting requirements — Harmonized, transparent reporting requirements are critical for tracking and assessing progress.
 - Recognizing, promoting and scaling up existing efforts.
 - Scaling up and accelerating financing to achieve a circular economy.
- Recognizing the status quo is not an option, in the near-term we must accelerate implementation of existing plans and frameworks developed by the G20, the Ocean Plastics Charter, APEC, industry, and civil society, as well as supporting and strengthening the work of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML).
- We look forward to continuing to engage in this process and to hopefully seeing you in person to discuss these issues more substantively at the proposed in-person meeting of the 5th United Nations Environment Assembly in February 2022.