



**Statement from the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR)  
28 November 2022**

**INC-1 Plastic Pollution Treaty First Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee  
(INC) for the development of an international legally binding instrument on  
plastic pollution, including in the marine environment Punta del Este (Uruguay)**

Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and gentlemen,

It is our pleasure and honour to participate at the 1st Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution.

The International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR) is an intergovernmental development organisation that promotes environmentally sustainable development using bamboo and rattan. It is currently made up of 49 Member States. In addition to its Secretariat Headquarters in China, INBAR has five Regional Offices in Cameroon, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana and India.

Ladies and Gentleman,

Over the past 50 years, the use and demand of plastics has tremendously grown resulting in large scale plastic pollution as well as immensely contributing to climate change – as most of plastics are derived from fossil fuel sources. As you know, plastics are non-degradable - it takes hundreds of thousands of years for it to degrade. It directly impacts our food chains and human health due to the micro-plastics in food, impacting wild life, and moreover, it impacts millions of people's livelihoods and social wellbeing. More than 100 countries across the world have taken actions to address the challenge.

Bamboo is a precious treasure bestowed upon humankind by nature. The development of the bamboo industry has significant ecological, economic and social benefits. As a green, low-carbon, fast-growing, renewable and degradable biomass material, bamboo can play a unique role in addressing a number of global challenges such as plastic pollution, climate change, poverty alleviation and ecological restoration.

Realistically, we cannot eliminate plastics altogether, however, we can strategically reduce their usage with more sustainable alternative materials. Bamboo is a potential alternative. With recent technological innovation, now a number of bamboo plastic alternative products, including tableware, single use items, daily use products, packaging materials, its application in cooling towers and as bamboo winding pipes, as well as alternatives to PVC are being developed and demonstrated.

The Peoples Republic of China and the INBAR jointly launched the “Bamboo as a substitute for Plastic Initiative” on the 07<sup>th</sup> November 2022 during the Second Global Bamboo and Rattan Congress. This initiative is one of the 32 deliverables stated by H.E President Xi Jinping during the 14<sup>th</sup> BRICS high-level dialogue on global development.

The initiative will deepen and strengthen the usage of bamboo as a sustainable and green alternative to plastics to address the problems of plastic pollution and climate change while contributing to the Global Development Initiative (GDI).

In the coming years, INBAR will work with stakeholders from China and in other INBAR member states to implement an action plan to support the accomplishment of the goals set under the ‘Bamboo as a Substitute for Plastic’ Initiative, which includes the formulation of favorable policies and strategies to incentivize the industry, support technology transfer and capacity building, promote research and technological innovations for diversification and optimization of the production and commercialization processes, as well as undertaking global advocacy to mainstream bamboo as a sustainable alternative to plastics.

We also wish to work with all stakeholders at the INC, including governments, academia, private sector, NGO’s and other multilateral institutions to provide innovative ideas and a clear way forward to effectively develop an international legal binding agreement on plastic pollution that promotes sustainable nature based solutions, including bamboo, as sustainable green alternatives to plastics, while filling the gaps in knowledge, skills, capacities, resources, technologies and policies to enable the industrial upscaling of the bamboo sector in order to match the demand for alternatives on international markets.

Thank you for your attention.

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