

## INTERVENTION - AHEG-4

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### Agenda Item 6

Thank you Mr Chair

I am speaking on behalf of EIA, GAIA, COARE, OceanCare and CIEL

We appreciate the efforts to create a summary of conversations during AHEG and note the necessity to keep this document both brief and neutral. However, in our view, the current summary reflects neither the granularity of discussion that has taken place nor the convergence of opinions around the necessity for a dedicated, global, and legally binding instrument to tackle plastic pollution.

Over the past years we have met both in-person and virtually as a group of experts driven by a shared vision of trying to eradicate plastic pollution. We have found commonality and points of divergence, yet, as the conversation and our knowledge has evolved it has become increasingly clear that momentum is growing around a concerted global effort to combat this crisis.

During this process, in support of a global instrument, there were submissions from:

- The African Group - on behalf of 54 countries
- The European Union - on behalf of 27 countries
- Also the countries of the Nordic Council, Switzerland, Philippines, Vietnam, ourselves and other civil society organisations and, most recently, the private sector

Together these submissions represent almost 50% of all the countries in the world.

In the discussions this week we have also heard powerful interventions on this growing convergence from Pacific Island countries, indigenous peoples and the children and youth major group, as well as several more Member States.

This is not just a rattle; it's a crescendo of diverse support for a global agreement to coordinate and drive the solutions that we desperately need.

Simultaneously, new research demonstrates the flow of plastic pollution into freshwater and marine ecosystems has accelerated, and proposed commitments by countries around the world are simply not enough to address the predicted growth in global plastic production.

Our recommendation is to reflect this accurately in the Chair's summary. We direct you to the NGO submission where we have provided suggestions, including, but not limited to - expanding item 13 to reflect the diverse array of stakeholders who are supporting a global agreement, and further elaboration on the rich discussions that have taken place about the essential elements, or building blocks, of such an agreement. There has been so much knowledge shared it seems

like a missed opportunity given the urgency of this challenge to not ensure this is adequately captured.

Finally, in our view, the Chair's summary should also provide not only an overview on each response option but also, critically, the route to get there at UNEA-5. Specifically, we feel that the recommendation of an International Negotiating Committee, an INC, is missing. Please refer to our submission for additional points.

Thank you