

United Nations Environment Programme
Ad-hoc Open Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics
Meeting 4 (AHEG-4) Preparatory Meeting

NGO Intervention: The Center for Oceanic Awareness, Research, and Education
Delivered By: Christopher CHIN, Executive Director
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Thank you, chair, for giving us the floor.

I represent COARE, The Center for Oceanic Awareness, Research, and Education
I also take the floor today on behalf of OceanCare and The Environmental Investigation Agency.

As the AHEG meetings have progressed, it has been encouraging to see the evolution of our collective understanding and the ever-growing convergence around the need for a new global framework to address the full lifecycle of plastics and create a safe and just circular economy – one that is just and safeguards the climate system.

Indeed, as was recognised in UNEA Resolution 2/11, and as many member States have noted, the plastic pollution crisis is *inherently* transboundary in nature and thus requires a concerted and coordinated **global** response to adequately address it.

We remind members and colleagues that none of the proposed response options are meant to preclude other options or other efforts. In fact, a new global agreement should **build upon**, complement, and drive ambition within existing national, regional, and global legal and policy instruments. Furthermore, it should be designed in a way that also considers national contexts and challenges, and would not impede immediate action to address this issue.

Such a Convention on Plastic Pollution must address the full lifecycle of plastics, from **design and production** to waste prevention and management. As outlined in our submission on response options, we view monitoring and reporting, plastic pollution prevention, coordination, and financial and technical support as the core elements of a new global convention. We have therefore been heartened to see these essential elements mentioned repeatedly by a growing number of Member States in discussions during this meeting and elsewhere.

We thank the delegations who have contributed to this process so enthusiastically. Indeed, a new global instrument will take some time, and that is all the more reason why we should engage these discussions now.

Moreover, work towards a common global vision does **NOT** detract from nor deter national or regional work.

The need to act – and to coordinate our action globally – becomes not only more clear as each day passes; it also becomes more dire.

Thank you.