



Paris, 8 April 2024

Open letter to Environment Ministers in advance of INC-4

Dear Ministers,

As we head into the final stretch to INC-4 at the end of April in Ottawa, I am writing to urge you to make every possible effort to ensure that this fourth negotiating session delivers a strong signal to the real economy regarding the international community's commitment to end plastic pollution.

With only two negotiating sessions ahead, it is imperative that this fourth session forges a clear path forward for an ambitious and effective global Plastics Treaty that rallies all actors of society in the collective charge of addressing plastic pollution – including setting the frame and direction for accelerated business action.

This feat will require an all-hands-on-deck approach, and we reaffirm the global business community's steadfast commitment to support the INC Secretariat's and Members States' efforts to secure an ambitious, effective and workable internationally legally binding instrument by the end of this year, with an overarching goal to end plastic pollution by 2040. We believe that INC-4 presents a unique opportunity to align on areas of broad convergence, bridge gaps where views diverge and to establish effective means of implementation.

In this context, we see an absolute need for INC-4 to deliver tangible outcomes in three central areas. Specifically:

1. **Put a circular economy approach at the heart of the instrument.** With broad support to maximise circular approaches, there is a clear opportunity to align on mechanisms to enhance circularity throughout the entire plastics life cycle, particularly with respect to product design and performance. Harmonised standards, criteria, definitions and systems for product design, reduction, reuse and repair will be key to enhancing circularity, as well as establishing effective mandatory Extended Producer Responsibility schemes, taking into account different national and sub-national priorities, which can accelerate the creation of markets for circular and sustainable products.
2. **Address most problematic and avoidable plastics.** Parties should focus on addressing most problematic and avoidable plastics with a high risk of leakage to the environment that hamper an effective circular economy for plastics. Strong global rules to reduce the use of these most problematic and avoidable plastics must be underpinned by evidence-based criteria with an application-based approach.

3. **Establish effective means of implementation for the real economy.** ICC urges governments to set a clear and effective pathway for businesses to implement the treaty. An agreement that provides strong global rules and takes into account country-specific circumstances, priorities and needs, in particular those of MSMEs, the lynchpin of the global economy, will be more effective in driving global business action and innovation to end plastic pollution. Clear financing plans, policies and incentives that can spur innovation must be at the core.

We appreciate that the task in front of you is immense, urgent, and hugely challenging politically. But failure is not an option.

The global business community needs you to show full determination and political will to build the conditions for success, moving beyond national positions and collaborating in our shared global interest. This is the energy we must bring to Ottawa.

Please see ICC as a strong partner to achieve a successful outcome that meets the level of ambition the world needs. I am available at your convenience ahead of INC-4 – to explore how we can best assist you in the important task ahead, including mobilising our network of 45 million companies in 170 countries.

Yours sincerely,



John W.H Denton AO
ICC Secretary General