

November 23, 2024

Jyoti Mathur-Filipp
Executive Secretary
Secretariat for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) on Plastic Pollution
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Re: Private Sector Engagement ahead of INC-5

Dear Secretary Mathur-Filipp:

The undersigned organizations believe addressing plastic pollution is a top priority, and we support efforts to complete the UN global plastic pollution agreement during the upcoming INC-5 negotiations in Busan, South Korea. The North American business community appreciates the opportunity to collaborate with UNEP and the INC Secretariat to develop this legally binding international instrument.

In the spirit of collaboration, we urge your consideration of the following:

Finalize an ambitious, consensus agreement that maximizes the number of countries able to join. We believe that the most important objective for INC-5 is to culminate negotiations and arrive at an agreement that is effective and implementable by all negotiating parties. We support a high-level, balanced, hybrid framework that focuses on global targets, while countries determine how to reach them based on national circumstances.

Avoid restricting supplies of essential materials for critical sectors throughout the economy. In September, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce submitted a [coalition letter to the U.S. government](#) detailing parameters of a sound country-level strategy and negotiating position. Those include the need to refrain from placing production caps or limits on plastics as doing so can restrict the availability of materials necessary in essential applications, hinder potential innovation and environmental progress, and result in economic harm.

The letter highlights that:

“Plastics are central inputs across a broad range of sectors and are essential for products that Americans rely on every day. The polymers used for simple products are the same polymers used in durable goods to achieve many lightweighting, safety, durability, and environmental objectives. Global and domestic plastics demand is projected to increase significantly across all applications.”

Additionally, plastics production caps or limits could make it more difficult to reach consensus among negotiating parties and could restrict pathways for countries to adopt and ratify the agreement that would otherwise be viable. More effective options exist to

control plastic pollution, and the private sector can offer the expertise, technology, and best practices to achieve that shared goal.

Support for country driven, well-designed Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) as part of a broader shared responsibility among plastics value chain stakeholders.

One such constructive pathway for achieving the necessary funding, innovation, recycled content, and infrastructure deployment for circularity is through EPR. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce led a collaborative effort to develop the [EPR Shared Business Principles found here](#). We believe these principles provide constructive guidelines for well-designed EPR and offer an opportunity to build consensus. We recommend that the Secretariat take these principles into account when deliberating policy approaches within the agreement.

Plastic pollution is a global challenge that all stakeholders – including industry, government, the environmental community, and consumers – must address together. Our organizations support solutions that foster innovation, such as the U.S. State Department’s End Plastic Pollution International Collaborative (EPPIC), and we stand ready to assist INC’s efforts in this final phase of negotiations.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Automotive Innovation

American Chemistry Council (ACC)

American Composites Manufacturers Association (ACMA)

American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers (AFPM)

American Petroleum Institute (API)

Canadian Chamber of Commerce

CESPEDES (Centro de Estudios del Sector Privado para el Desarrollo Sostenible, México)

Communications Cable & Connectivity Association (CCCA)

EPS Industry Alliance

Plastics Industry Association (PLASTICS)

PRINTING United Alliance

U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Vinyl Institute