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**ACTION LAB FOR DEVELOPMENT**  
**Organization in Special Consultative Status with United**  
**Nations Economic and Social Council since 2020**

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INC Chair,  
Distinguished Delegates,

My name is Tfurndabi Tawong Cornelius, On behalf of Action Lab for Development (ACTLAB), a non-governmental organization dedicated to environmental conservation in Cameroon, we extend our gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the [Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee \(INC-4\) to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.](#)

Plastic pollution is a pressing global issue that demands urgent attention and concerted action from the international community. As a coastal nation, Cameroon is acutely aware of the devastating impact of plastic pollution, particularly on marine environments and coastal communities. Our shores are littered with plastic debris, endangering marine life, compromising ecosystems, and threatening human health and livelihoods.

We commend the efforts of the INC and the United Nations Environment Assembly in addressing this critical issue through the authorization of a legally binding instrument on plastic pollution. It is imperative that we establish comprehensive frameworks and mechanisms to effectively combat plastic pollution at the global level.

In line with the mandate of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/14, we urge the INC to prioritize the following key principles and objectives in the development of the instrument:

- 1.Prevention:** Emphasize the prevention of plastic pollution at its source through measures such as reduction, reuse, and sustainable production and consumption patterns.
- 2. Mitigation and Cleanup:** Implement measures to mitigate the impact of existing plastic pollution through cleanup efforts, waste management strategies, and innovative technologies.
- 3.Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR):** Advocate for the inclusion of EPR schemes to hold producers accountable for the lifecycle of their products, including collection, recycling, and proper disposal.
- 4. Capacity Building and Technical Assistance:** Support capacity building initiatives and provide technical assistance to developing countries, including Cameroon, to enhance their ability to address plastic pollution effectively.
- 5. Public Awareness and Education:** Promote public awareness campaigns and educational programs to foster behavioral change and promote sustainable practices in plastic use and disposal.
- 6. Partnerships and Collaboration:** Encourage multi-stakeholder partnerships and collaboration between governments, civil society organizations, industry, and other stakeholders to address plastic pollution comprehensively.

As representatives of civil society, we are optimistic with the work of INC and stand ready to support and contribute to the development and implementation of the legally binding instrument on plastic pollution. Together, we can work towards a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable future for current and future generations.

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