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| Dialogue on Plastics Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastics Trade STATEMENT BY iccPre-Plenary Meeting – 16 February 2023 |

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ICC statement: WTO Dialogue on Plastic Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastic Trade: 16 February 2023

1. My name is Raelene Martin and it's my honor to address you on behalf of the International Chamber of Commerce – the institutional representative of 45 million companies, of all sizes and sectors and in 170 countries.
2. We greatly appreciated the perspectives and views shared during the discussions today, particularly highlighting the important interlinkages between trade and plastics pollution as well as different efforts to eliminate plastic pollution and create a circular economy for plastics pollution, by harnessing trade and trade policies.
3. In this regard, we welcome the opportunity to share some perspectives on behalf of the global business community that acknowledges the importance and urgency to tackle the critical issue of plastic pollution and welcomes global efforts to establish a common goal and critical path for a global treaty to end plastic pollution.
4. The business community is already taking steps to tackle this growing issue, but much more needs to be done to leverage the energy, capacities and expertise of the business community to scale up actions at the required scale and speed across entire value chains to eliminate plastics pollution.
5. We know that it takes both business action but also the right enabling frameworks.
6. We strongly believe that one key driver in this process will be an ambitious, workable and effective international legally binding instrument with a clear overarching goal, shared objectives as well as harmonised standards, definitions and rules that would help guide and enable businesses to become positive actors in transitioning to a circular economy for plastics.
7. We are deeply committed to support the INC Secretariat's and Members States' efforts and forthcoming work to secure an ambitious agreement by 2024
8. We see a coordinated, concerted and holistic approach -- that addresses the full life cycle of plastics, including production processes, design options, the use of chemicals, additives and polymers, waste management and recycling, whilst also taking into account national circumstances, challenges, capacities, capabilities and feasibility in different economic sectors; will be critically needed.
9. Trade policies and circular economy considerations will be critical in supporting the treaty on plastic pollution and its successful implementation. For that purpose, it will be important to understand how trade and trade policies can effectively support a circular economy transition and we commend the work and leadership of this dialogue in this regard.
10. We would also like to encourage governments to consult the findings of the ICC study – "The Circular Economy and International Trade: Options for the World Trade Organization" on how smartly designed trade policies and rules can support a transition to a circular and resource-efficient economy.
11. Finally, we believe that multistakeholder engagement in the different international and national efforts will be essential to achieve this objective, including all businesses - large and small, from all sectors and geographies -who have a critical role to play in providing the expertise and the solutions to tackle the challenge of plastic pollution.
12. ICC looks forward to supporting governments in addressing this global challenge and we stand ready to support the important work of this WTO Dialogue on Plastics.

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1. \* In Original language only/En langue originale seulement/En el idioma original solamente.

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