Environment and Climate Change Canada,
the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia,
the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Dominican Republic,
the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation of Ghana and
the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection of Germany

Excellency,

Plastic pollution, including marine litter, have long been in the global spotlight. Up to 57 million tonnes of plastic waste end up in the environment every year, and up to twelve million tons in the ocean where marine wildlife ingest or are entangled by plastic debris, causing injury and death. Plastic pollution also has negative impacts on food safety and quality, human health and tourism, and contributes to climate change. In spite of this, the flow of plastic into the environment continues, and is projected to nearly triple by 2040.

In response to this global challenge, Canada, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Germany and Ghana and are supported by UNEP jointly organising the **Ministerial Conference on Plastic Pollution including Marine Litter – Informal consultations addressing the mandates of UNEA 5/14 and the proceedings of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee** as a follow-up of the Ministerial Conference in 2021 leading towards UNEA 5.2. The goal of the Conference is to build further momentum and political will to advance a coherent global strategy **to end plastic pollution** thus ensuring a future with clean environment.

This Ministerial Conference, to be held in English, is set for **28th of October 2024, tentatively from 8:30 – 16:00,** the within the framework of CBD COP16, in **Cali** at the **Spiwak Hotel.** The conference provides an opportunity for a meeting in person with a limited high-level delegation.

The Conference offers a platform for informal consultations in the lead up to the **fifth negotiation round of INC** and builds on the initiatives organized by Canada and Norway at UNGA as well as Kenya. With a view to taking the next decisive steps towards finalizing negotiations on a new global instrument complementing the existing framework, we invite you to join the conference to express your views and would appreciate your support for the intended hosts' outcome document.

If you intend to participate in person in Cali please register your delegation (1+1) here
Please register here for an informal dinner on the evening of the 27th of October

Steven Guilbeault,
Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Canada

Maria Susana Muhammad Gonzalez, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Colombia

Roberto Álvarez Gil,
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dominican Republic

Steffi Lemke,
Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, Germany

Ophelia Mensah-Hayford, Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Ghana