Part I – 4. Principles

Saudi Arabia proposal

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia requests this language be included with:

1. Current option
2. To be a separate option.

As such, below is the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia’s emphasized proposal:

1. The right of development is inherent to human right, all peoples have an equal right to matters relating to safe living means, Economic development is the prerequisite for adopting measures to address plastic pollution. Developing countries have a right to grow sustainable consumption to meet social and economic development needs.

2. All states have a duty to aim at sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations. Protection of the environment should proceed in an integrated manner with economic development in light of national circumstances, without prejudice to the socio-economic development of developing countries.

3. The Parties have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and developmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

4. The Parties, in particular developed countries, shall respect the principle of sovereignty of States in international cooperation to address the issue of plastics pollution in a facilitative, non-instructive and non-punitive manner, and avoiding any undue burden being placed on Parties.

5. The Parties should protect the environmental system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind, on the basis of historical responsibility, equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBD+RC) between developed and developing countries, taking into account developed countries’ historical contribution to plastic pollution due to high production and consumption levels, industrial activities, and waste management practices.

6. Developed countries, having historically contributed to plastic pollution, and accordingly have the obligation to compensate for their actions in accordance with Polluters Pay Principle (PPP)

7. The specific needs, priorities and special circumstances of developing country Parties, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of plastic pollution, and of those Parties, especially developing country Parties, that would have to bear disproportionate or abnormal burden under the instrument, should be given full consideration.
8. The Parties shall take precautionary approaches in a cost effective manner and in accordance to their national circumstances, capabilities and different socio economic context based on the CBDR principle.

9. Developing country Parties should have the right to promote sustainable development, policies and measures to protect the environment as appropriate to the specific conditions of each Party and should be integrated with national development programs, taking into account that economic development is essential for adopting measures to address plastic pollution.

10. The Parties must ensure measures taken to combat plastic pollution, including unilateral ones, must not introduce trade distortions and constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade.

11. The need to improve the international economic environment for the developing countries and to promote their sustained economic development are prerequisites for enabling developing countries to participate effectively in the international efforts to protect the global environment.