GCC countries Interventions on Subgroup 1.3

Article 9.a: Waste Management (April 26, 2024 from 15:00 to 18:00)

On behalf of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, I am presenting this statement. I would like to extend my gratitude to Mr. Co-chair for his dedication and for providing us with the platform to express our perspective on Article 9.a. When it comes to tackling plastic pollution, we firmly believe that emphasizing waste management is crucial in addressing this problem. In this regard, we commend the intervention made by our colleague from China concerning the Basel Convention.

The GCC countries endorse Option 1 of the streamlined text in Part II as the basis for negotiation, accompanied by the following general remarks:

- It is essential to avoid obligatory language under Option 1, considering the diverse national circumstances and capabilities of countries.
- Means of implementation is necessary, particularly for developing countries.
- The waste hierarchy should be based on national circumstances, recognizing that “prevention” may not be feasible for developing countries.
- We reserve the right to refer to specific annexes mentioned under Option 1, such as [Part II of Annex F], as these have not yet been agreed upon or negotiated.
- Further clarification is needed regarding the term “effective social system.”
- Ongoing deliberation and discussion are required for the term “just transition.” Additional time is needed to fully comprehend the implications, and further deliberations on the article related to just transition should be conducted.
- The GCC countries do not support the inclusion of some of the terms like “sectoral approach,” as different countries have varying regulatory approaches and waste management classifications.
- The Technical Guidelines of Plastic Waste, which have been updated and adopted under the Basel Convention, already contain provisions on best practices and have undergone line-by-line negotiations by member states. Therefore, it is crucial to avoid duplicating efforts and work.
- Certain provisions tailored to the needs of developing countries are necessary under this article.

With your permission, Mr. Co-chair, we would like to continue our intervention in the same article and propose the following articles to be moved to the section on waste management:

1. Move Article 8 on Leakage and releases of plastic waste
2. Reflecting on the previous proposals of moving the section of fishing gear under article 8, taking into consideration our previous comments on article 8, which are:
   - Changing the title of the article to “Leakage and releases of plastic waste”
   - Merging article 8 with its new title to be included under article 9.a “Waste Management”.