CG 1: Republic of Korea’s proposal on 7. EPR

1. Introduction

- When providing guidelines for EPR systems, it is essential to reference the OECD's Extended Producer Responsibility: Updated guidance for Efficient Waste Management, focusing on systems targeting the final products within domestic markets.

- Also, the introduction of EPR systems must consider the potential economic impact on informal waste pickers, who play a significant role in waste management in many developing countries. Emphasizing a just transition is crucial to ensure that these vital contributors to waste reduction are not adversely affected.

2. Text Proposal

1. Each party is encouraged to establish and operate national Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) systems, or any systems that serve the same purpose, taking into consideration market conditions, national capabilities and circumstances within its jurisdiction in accordance with national legislation to incentivize increased recyclability, promote higher recycling rates, enhance the accountability of producers for safe and environmentally sound management of plastics and plastic products, and enhance public awareness, with special consideration of just transition for waste pickers. The measures adopted pursuant to this provision shall be reflected in the national plan communicated pursuant to [Part IV.1 on national plans].

2. The governing body shall, at its first session, develop implementable guidelines as outlined in Annex D for design and implementation of national EPR systems or any systems that serve the same purpose, and identify their essential features, and to encourage their harmonization, taking into account a just transition.
ANNEX D
Outline of guidelines to be developed by the governing body / to be further discussed in intersessional works

- Possible policy instruments of EPR
  - e. g. Take-back and collection, deposit-refund system, advanced disposal fees, material taxes, upstream combination tax and subsidy, etc.
- Possible product coverage under EPR system
  - e.g. packaging, plastic products, E-waste, waste tires, fishing gear and nets etc.
- Key principles of establishment and operation of EPR scheme for consideration
  - prioritizing and taking action in accordance with waste hierarchy (prevention, re-use, recycling, recovery and disposal)
  - proper allocation of responsibilities for the government, producers, and stakeholders
  - enhancing transparency and accountability through monitoring system
  - just transition and protection of waste pickers, small or medium sized enterprises
- Institutional actions required
  - setting quantitative recycling targets with life-cycle approach
  - establishing Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs)
  - precise reporting, data collecting, if appropriate, through integrated online portal or database
  - establishing clear framework on finance
  - supporting producers’ efforts to produce products with enhanced recyclability
  - increasing public awareness
- Expected environmental, economic outcomes