Iran position paper on reporting and assessment of progress

Mr. Cochair

Taking into account the differences in capacities and capabilities of developed and developing countries, and the complicated nature of many technical issues related to the plastic pollution, my delegation believes that there should be a clear distinction between various countries on the issue of reporting.

While for the developed countries reporting on implementation of the future instrument shall be a legally binding commitment and this group of countries should submit their reports regularly in accordance with a set of guidelines determined by the Governing body, reporting by developing member states should be on a voluntary basis and upon availability of means of implementation and their timely and adequately access to those supports.

Furthermore, the developing countries in preparation of their reports should enjoy flexibility in terms of timing, updating and inclusion of information, data and other details in their reports.

Therefore, while our priority is option 0 under section 3, my country could also accept option 1 if the para is limited to developed countries and not member states. Accordingly, my delegation could also support para OP1 Bis upon the suggested distinction between the developed and developing countries and upon availability of and its accessibility to financial and technical support for this purpose.

However, on para 2 and 3 under this section, my delegation is of the view that many suggestions proposed under these paragraphs including transparency, tracking, monitoring and including statistical data on types and volumes of production, imports and exports of plastic polymers and products, Ensuring transparent assessment of progress, visualization of implementations by using objective data and evidences on measures in national action plan and reporting, together with inclusion of numerical information are beyond the capacity and capabilities of developing countries and necessarily both para 2 and 3 should be deleted and OP3 Alt which suggests No text to be taken into consideration.

In para 4, we believe that the suggestion for developing a common framework by the Governing body for reporting, including ways and means to ensure that reporting is specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and timebound. Is neither fair nor realistic and feasible and such a framework needs to be limited only to developed countries.

The para OP4bis has also gone beyond the mandate of the UNEA resolution 5/14 and its suggestion for encouraging reports on relevant subjects from chemicals-related conventions, conventions related to climate change, biodiversity, and the law of the sea are irrelevant to the scope of the future instrument on plastic pollution. Accordingly, we do not support the references to contributions from multilateral organizations, such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), World Customs Organization (WCO), World Health Organization (WHO), and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

On para 6, the guidelines related to disclosures from businesses, including the financial sector on their activities and financial flows from all sources related to plastic pollution and related sustainable finance practices, is against confidentiality of business information and a safe and secured international trade and will adversely impact free and balanced trade among countries. Therefore, para OP6 Alt which is No text, is favoured by my delegation.
On the title of section 4, we believe that the title "Periodic assessment and monitoring of the progress of implementation of the instrument is meaningful and there is no need to add the term ‘and effectiveness evaluation’.

On sub section small a on Assessment and monitoring, we should consider that such a job is purely technical needs particular capacities and capabilities. Therefore, the developing countries only, upon availability and accessibility of means of implementation as well as affordability of relevant technology and within their capabilities may consider to establish programmes to assess and monitor emissions and releases of plastic into the environment. But out of the 4 actions proposed the suggestion on Modelling to understand the movement of plastics in air, soil, water, and ecosystems would be technically complicated and much beyond the capacity of many developing countries. So, the reference in para 2 and the measures taken to implement the suggested provisions of this article in the national plan shall be optional for developing countries.

Para 3 under this section on consideration and adoption of guidelines by the governing body* at its first session, to facilitate implementation of the instrument, is acceptable.

On sub section small b, the title shall be Progress assessment with no reference to Effectiveness evaluation.

In this relation we believe that OP3 Alt. which suggests that the guidelines for assessment and not evaluation to be adopted by the governing body is the option which we favors.

My delegation does not support OP1 and OP2 Alt. and the whole para 3. In para 4, the focus of the work should be on outcome of the assessment of implementation of the instrument.

In this para, the assessment shall also consider financial and technological needs and requirement together with barriers and challenges of developing countries in their strive to implement the instrument. The assessment shall also include recommendations on supporting developing countries in this respect.

3. Reporting on progress [of implementation]

Option 2

1. Each Developed country Party shall report to the governing body*, through the secretariat, [its national action plans] on the measures it has taken to implement the [provisions][obligations] of this instrument* and on the effectiveness of such measures and the possible challenges in meeting the objective of the instrument*. [Differentiated reporting timelines for developed and developing country Parties shall be established according to a decision made by the governing body*]
2. Each Party shall include in its [reporting][report, to be made publicly available by the secretariat] the information called for in articles [X, X]* of this instrument*, and should take into account information provided by relevant partners and stakeholders, in particular waste pickers.

**OP2 Alt** The governing body* shall, at its first session, decide upon the timing and format of the reporting to be followed by the Developed country Parties, while providing flexibility to developing country Parties.

**OP2 Alt 2 No text.**

3. The governing body* shall, at its first session, decide upon the timing and format of the reporting to be followed by the Parties[, taking into account the desirability of coordinating reporting with relevant international instruments and organizations, as appropriate].

**OP3 Alt** The reporting framework shall provide flexibility in the implementation to developing country Parties in light of their capacities and must not create new burdens for developing country Parties.

**OP3 bis** The Secretariat shall make national reports submitted by the Parties under this article publicly available.

**OP3 ter** Support shall be provided to developing country Parties for the implementation of this article, recognizing that enhanced support for developing country Parties will effectively facilitate their efforts to prepare and update their national reports in accordance with this article.

### 4. Periodic assessment and monitoring of the progress of implementation of the instrument* [and effectiveness evaluation]

#### a. Assessment and monitoring

1. Parties should shall, upon availability accessibility and affordability of relevant technology and resources and knowledge within their capabilities, individually and/or in collaboration with other Parties or competent organizations, consider to establish programmes to assess and monitor emissions and releases of plastic into the environment, including in the marine environment. This should include:

   a. Establishment of baseline information on the types and volumes of existing plastic pollution in the environment;
   b. Periodically collect data and information on the types and levels of plastic pollution in the environment;
   c. Modelling to understand the movement of plastics in air, soil, water, and ecosystems;
   d. The effects of plastic pollution on the environment.

2. The measures taken to implement the provisions of this article may shall be reflected in the national plan communicated pursuant to [Part IV.1 on national plans] and monitoring information should be reported to the governing body*, pursuant to [Part IV.3 on reporting on progress].

3. The governing body* at its first session, shall consider to adopt guidelines to facilitate implementation of the obligations set out in paragraph 1, including best available practices and harmonized monitoring methodologies, including low technology options.]

#### b. Effectiveness [Effectiveness evaluation] [Progress assessment]

1. The governing body* shall [entrust a subsidiary body to] periodically evaluate assess in a comprehensive and facilitative manner, the [implementation][progress][effectiveness] of [this][the] instrument* to assess collective progress in achieving the objective of the instrument* [considering commitments and support provided in light of equity]*[ and [based upon this evaluation] determine [if necessary] [any] measures

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1 Note: The list of relevant articles to be defined.
required to advance in achieving the objective [including measures to support developing countries overcome challenges related to the implementation of the instrument]. The [governing body* shall [begin][undertake] its] first [evaluation][assessment] of [effectiveness][progress] of the instrument* [shall be undertaken] no later than [X][4][5][6][8] years after the date of entry into force of the instrument* and [periodically] thereafter at [intervals to be decided by the governing body* but no later than at least every [X][4][5] years.

2. The governing body* shall, at its first session, [[initiate the establishment of] [arrangements for providing itself with relevant data and information on plastic pollution]](adopt)[[the modalities for the [evaluation][assessment] of [effectiveness][the implementation][progress] of the instrument*] in accordance with the provisions of [Part IV.4a][this article].

**OP1 and OP2 Alt.** The governing body* shall establish an Effectiveness Evaluation and Review Committee to evaluate the effectiveness of the instrument* and make recommendations accordingly. The terms of reference for the Committee and the modalities for effectiveness evaluation will be determined by the governing body* at its [ ] session.

3. The [evaluation][assessment] shall be conducted on the basis of [best] available scientific, environmental, technical, financial and economic information, including:

   a. [National reporting pursuant to [Part IV.3 on reporting on progress];]
   b. [National plans submitted by Parties pursuant to [Part IV.1 on national plans];]
   c. [[Scientific and socioeconomic assessments [pursuant to [Part V.2 on subsidiary bodies];]]
   d. [[Scientific assessments and the use of] Best available scientific and technical knowledge [including scientific literature [the traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples obtained with their free, prior and informed consent] and other relevant sources;]]
   e. [[Results of assessment and monitoring conducted pursuant to [Part IV.4.a. on assessment and monitoring];]]
   f. [[Relevant information and recommendations provided by the committee referred to in [Part IV.2 on implementation and compliance mechanism];]]
   g. [[Reports and other relevant information on the [alignment of financial flows] [and alignment with the life cycle stages] from all sources with the instrument’s objective [and targets];] operation of the financial [resources and] [mechanism][assistance], [technical assistance] technology transfer [on voluntary and mutually agreed terms] and capacity building arrangements put in place under this instrument*, and]
   h. [[Relevant reports from the chemicals related agreements, multilateral environmental agreements that deal with climate change, biodiversity, law of the sea as well as multilateral organizations, including the World Trade Organization, World Customs Organization, World Health Organization, and International Labour Organization;]]
   i. [[Other information the governing body* deems relevant.]]

**OP3 Alt.** The evaluation shall be conducted as per guidance adopted by the governing body*.

4. The governing body* [shall][may] take into account the outcomes of the [evaluation][assessment] of [effectiveness][progress] of the instrument* [when determining measures required to enhance the effectiveness of the instrument*].

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2 Note: This language assumes that a scientific and/or technical body or review mechanism would be mandated to carry out scientific and socioeconomic assessments.