

## **Country Statement of Sri Lanka at INC-5.2**

**Thank you, Mr. Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,**

Sri Lanka aligns itself with the global call to end plastic pollution and strongly supports the development of a legally binding international instrument that addresses plastic pollution throughout its full life cycle.

We recognize the urgency of this endeavor—not only to safeguard our environment and biodiversity, but also to protect human health and livelihoods, particularly those of vulnerable populations in developing countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) such as ours.

**On Articles 1 & 1bis,** Sri Lanka supports:

- A strong and inclusive preamble that recognizes the interconnectedness of the triple planetary crisis: climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.
- A clear and time-bound objective to end plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, through a full life cycle approach grounded in sustainable development and circularity.
- The importance of equity, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR), the polluter pays principle, and the precautionary principle as guiding tenets of the instrument.

**Regarding Articles 2–4,** Sri Lanka advocates for:

- A broad scope encompassing all plastics, chemical additives, and associated production and waste processes.
- A science-based approach to identify problematic and avoidable plastic products, including those used in food and cosmetic applications.

However, we recognize challenges in monitoring and regulating hazardous chemicals in products intended for our domestic market. We urge the treaty to mandate quality control and chemical safety testing and recommend the harmonization of regional standards—particularly across the Asian region. Global chemical transparency must be a requirement.

**On Articles 5–7,** Sri Lanka supports measures:

- To improve product design for circularity, recyclability, and safety, and calls for technology transfer and international financing for developing countries.
- To include removable and standardized labeling to facilitate recycling and effective waste sorting.
- To prevent leakages into marine and freshwater ecosystems through strong, enforceable global measures.

Disasters such as the *MV X-Press Pearl*, *MLC Elsa 2*, and *MV Wan Hai 503* illustrate the irreversible damage from plastic pollution incidents. These underscore the urgent need for global

standards, disaster response mechanisms, and compensation frameworks to prevent recurrence and ensure accountability.

**Concerning Articles 8–9**, Sri Lanka emphasizes:

- The need for dedicated financial support, infrastructure development, and technology transfer to manage plastic waste sustainably.
- The adoption of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) frameworks, and the inclusion and protection of informal sector workers—particularly waste pickers—within national waste management systems.

On legacy pollution, Sri Lanka reiterates the disproportionate burden borne by coastal nations. The *X-Press Pearl* disaster remains a stark reminder of the impact of transboundary plastic pollution. We call for the treaty to include robust mechanisms for cleanup, compensation, monitoring, and regional cooperation.

**For Articles 10–11**, Sri Lanka underscores:

- The importance of a just transition that supports both formal and informal workers, with targeted programs for capacity building, social protection, and green job creation.
- Active engagement of women, youth, and marginalized communities.
- The establishment of a dedicated financial mechanism that is predictable, transparent, and grant-based—tailored to the needs of developing countries and SIDS.

**On Articles 12–14**, Sri Lanka calls for:

- Equitable access to capacity building, technical assistance, and technology transfer, including training programs on EPR and innovations in plastic alternatives.
- A non-punitive compliance mechanism focused on facilitation and cooperation.
- National implementation through country-driven plans aligned with development priorities.

Sri Lanka’s **National Action Plan for Plastic Management (2021–2030)** demonstrates our commitment to this approach.

**Under Articles 15–16**, we call for:

- Streamlined, user-friendly reporting requirements, with technical assistance for developing countries.
- Monitoring based on standardized methodologies to ensure global comparability.
- A science-based, indicator-driven, and independently assessed evaluation process with clear timelines for tracking progress.

**Regarding Articles 17–19**, Sri Lanka supports:

- The establishment of a transparent global information exchange system and regional platforms to promote cooperation, best practices, and shared data on chemicals and waste.
- Inclusive education, public awareness, and behavior change strategies—especially among youth and local communities.

Financial support is essential for outreach campaigns and research on micro/nanoplastics and human health. We call on the **World Health Organization (WHO)** to lead research into the health impacts of plastics. The treaty must also require mandatory disclosure of chemicals used in plastic products—especially those intended for children and infants.

**Mr. Chair, Excellencies,**

Sri Lanka remains fully committed to supporting an ambitious and legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution. We urge all Parties to ensure that the treaty is science-based, equity-oriented, and action-focused, with strong support measures for developing nations.

Let us seize this historic opportunity to forge a future free of plastic pollution—for our environment, for our health, and for generations to come.

**Thank you.**