MALAYSIA NATIONAL STATEMENT FOR INC-4

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. First of all, allow me to thank Canada for hosting the INC-4 and also the Chairman and Secretariat of INC for the commendable hard work.

2. Plastic pollution is one of the most pressing issues globally. It is a crisis that has reached a critical point, posing significant threats to ecosystems, the environment, and human health.

3. Malaysia supports the aspiration to curb plastic pollution by addressing the full life cycle of plastics as mandated by Resolution 5/14 of United National Environment Assembly 5.2 (UNEA 5.2). Malaysia stands firm in our belief that our nation knows our needs best. Thus, the Treaty must be country-driven, allowing us to set targets and actions that align with our unique circumstances.

4. Malaysia has implemented the Malaysia Plastics Sustainability Roadmap 2021-2030 (MPSR) and Malaysia’s Roadmap Towards Zero Single Use Plastics 2018-2030. These policies are our national commitment and they are aligned with the global intention of the Instrument. Malaysia’s path to sustainability cannot be dictated; it must be determined nationally, ensuring a just transition that respects our developmental pace.

5. Malaysia calls for the Instrument to be shaped in a balanced and fair approach without impeding our rights to exploit and utilize our natural resources for our economic development. In this respect, the scope of the Treaty must not include extraction of fossil fuel as this raw material is also used mainly for other industrial production apart from plastic. Correspondingly, blanket restriction on production and supply of primary plastic polymers and chemicals, without considering market demand and availability of affordable and safe alternatives will shackle our rights to development and bring unintended adverse effects to our economy and society.

6. Thus, Malaysia proposes for a facilitative and encouraging methodology such as encouragement of production of circular polymers that would produce the similar result of reduction in production of virgin polymers, rather than imposition of abrupt legislative controls.

Thank you.
23 April 2024