MALAYSIA’S WRITTEN SUBMISSION FOR INC-4
Contact Group 1 (Subgroup 1.2)

Part II.1: Primary plastic polymers

Malaysia is of the view that the Instrument should adhere to the mandate of the UNEA Resolution 5/14. The Resolution calls for an international legally binding instrument to end plastics pollution. The most immediate and impactful action in addressing the root cause of plastics pollution is by enhancing plastics waste management and circularity globally. There is no need to single out primary plastic polymers in this Instrument. What we need to do is to enhance plastic sustainability.

Isolated measures focused on restricting plastics polymers production:

i. do not address the key objective of the instrument to end plastics pollution and leakage of plastics into the environment;

ii. could restrict the availability of plastics for vital applications such as food packaging, healthcare, and renewable energy, where secure and uninterrupted supply chains are essential;

iii. will restrict the growth of the industry with investors seeing no value for future investments and reduction in resources to spur innovation and product development for production of better and safer plastics; and

iv. will lead to rising costs, such as for food packaging, and potentially disproportionately impact low-income populations.

There are more effective options to address plastics pollution, including sending clear demand signals to the private sector to increase circularity.

Malaysia is of the view that driving circularity should be the core of the instrument to ensure plastics can be effectively collected and kept in the loop for as long as possible, to reduce plastics waste generation and eventually, end plastics pollution.

There should not be any provision to reduce the production of primary plastic polymers in this Instrument.

On this note, Malaysia supports Option 0.

Thank you.

25 April 2024