

Submission by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on Article 7 of Chair's Text

Members of the Committee	Pakistan
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Pakistan expresses its overall support for the objectives and provisions of Article 7, particularly the provisions aimed at controlling microplastics in consumer products and preventing leakage of plastic into coastal and marine environments. These commitments align with Pakistan's sustainable development and Blue Economy aspirations.

However, together we should ensure effective international cooperation on plastic pollution to address the transboundary nature of river systems, which are a major conduit for plastic waste leakage into oceans. Many lower riparian countries, including Pakistan, experience severe plastic pollution in their river systems due to plastic waste releases originating in upstream jurisdictions.

This unregulated transboundary leakage poses a serious risk to ecological health, and public safety, and may also give rise to future environmental disputes. To address this gap in the current Chair's text, a paragraph under Article 7 shall be included that recognizes the principle of CBDR.

Such a provision would strengthen the Convention's integrity, promote cooperation among riparian states, and provide a legal basis for prevention, control, and remediation of all types of plastic pollution originating from transboundary river systems.

The inclusion of this para under Article 7 would fill a critical legal and policy gap in addressing the transboundary dimension of plastic pollution, particularly in regions dependent on international river systems. It would enhance environmental accountability, and provide clarity for the implementation of obligations related to plastic leakage into aquatic environments.

Pakistan urges the Secretariat and negotiating Parties to give due consideration to this proposal.