

Subgroup 1.2

April 25, 2024

The intervention of the Russian Federation in regard of Article 1

- The Russian Federation strongly disagrees with the position of certain Members about the need for reduction of primary polymer production.
- First, such proposals go far beyond the negotiating mandate, which is to end plastic pollution with specific focus on combating existing plastic waste, including in marine environment. We should keep in mind that the UNEA Resolution 5/14 has no reference to the establishment of restrictive measures with regard to the production of primary polymers.
- In fact, such proposals shift the focus of discussion from such a real and well-identified problem as plastic pollution to unsubstantiated and unpredictable upstream restrictions and prohibitions. Such proposals do not give due regard to the following:
 - the vital role of polymers in the world economy and trade,
 - the importance of polymers for food security and public health,
 - concerns over industry-wide disruptions due to trade measures incompatible with the WTO rules,
 - large variety of national circumstances.
- Overall, we consider unacceptable any attempts to impose restrictive measures on petrochemical and gas-chemical industries since no plastic pollution is generated at this stage of the production value chain.
- We strongly insist that Members should shift the discussion to more substantive provisions, which should be consistent with the mandate for these negotiations, in particular, to provisions relating to promotion of sustainable production and consumption through product design, circularity, and environmentally sound waste management.