



**Contact Group 4
Statement by Samoa on behalf of Small Island Developing States
INC-5**

26 November 2024

Standalone Article on Principles

Speaking on behalf of the SIDS, we think that there should be a separate article on principles. We recognize that this is a politically difficult issue. However, there are a number of principles that should cut across all of the obligations in the text. It is easier to put them in a single operative article, than having to operationalize them in every substantive provision where they are relevant

We think that there are a number of principles that exist in other agreements, like BBNJ mentioned that could be included here.

We suggest the following principles to be included:

- Special circumstances of Small Island Developing States (SIDS);
- Sovereign right to exploit natural resources/no harm principle;
- Public participation in environmental decision-making, including full and effective participation by Indigenous Peoples and local communities;
- Precautionary principle, or precautionary approach, as appropriate;
- The use of best available science, data, and information, and traditional knowledge, knowledge of Indigenous Peoples, and local knowledge systems, in accordance with the rights of the holders of such knowledge, including as reflected in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and international human rights law;
- Polluter pays principle;
- Common but differentiated responsibilities
- Circular economy approaches;
- Access to information and technology
- Sustainable development.
- The need to avoid disproportionate burden of action on SIDS with respect to addressing plastic pollution