Statement by the Pacific Small Island Developing States on Product Design, Composition and Performance

(Part II, Item 5 of the Streamlined Text for SG1.2)

Plastics INC4 - Ottawa, Canada
25 April 2024

Delivered by Solomon Islands on behalf of PSIDS.

Solomon Islands is speaking on behalf of 14 Pacific SIDs to support Samoa’s Statement on behalf of AOSIS.

With respect to:

5 (a) Product design, composition and performance

In the streamlined text, elements of text Pacific SIDs support are reflected generally in Sub Option 1, 1(b) and 1(c) as well as in Sub Option 1, paragraph 2 and 3. Like AOSIS, Pacific SIDS are open to consider ALDFG being addressed as a sector under this section (Part II.5), separate and apart from the waste management sub-section on fishing gear.

5(b) Reuse, refill and Repair of Plastic and Products

Pacific SIDs support the Samoa’s Statement on behalf of AOSIS to move item 5(b) to Part 9 under Waste Management as the activities of reuse, refill and repair are more synonymous with management regime rather than a design regime. We believe that effective means of implementation for SIDS will be required to fulfil this obligation.

5(c) Use of Recycled Plastic Contents

Pacific SIDs is supportive of the establishment of requirements for recycled content, whilst recognizing this is a complex scientific issue that consider the best available scientific advice, with potential sectoral considerations to ensure the use of recycled content does not impact on the form and function of the produced products, and that does not materially increase the toxicity of products through the recycling process. We have not selected a preferred text.
option as we feel a blanket minimum percentage of recycled content may be inappropriate for certain sectors, impacts on functionality and increased toxicity. We agree that a clearer understanding of ‘safe and environmentally sound postconsumer recycled plastic’ is required and are open to further discussions on this issue. Pacific SIDs supports the AOSIS emphasizes on considering the small and remote nature of our islands and economies and the importance of providing effective and robust means of implementation to enable SIDS to participate in recycling, and to access recycling technologies.

5(d) Alternative Plastics and Plastic Products
Pacific SIDs request that any substitute or alternative plastic should be assessed via appropriate criteria designed to ensure the products are essential, safe and sustainable, transparent and traceable. We are open to further discussion on this issue and in particular on the logic of merging this Item with Part 6.

Thank you Co-facilitator.