

### **Iran position on Article 3 : Plastic Products**

Iran believes the proposed article on plastic products in the Chair's text is not balanced and not reflecting the views of all delegations as states in Busan session.

Unfortunately, we are witnessing some efforts to expand our understanding of the agenda of INC and our mandate from addressing plastic pollution in marine environment to many other areas. In line with such an approach, there are suggestions which are very prescriptive and unsupported by strong scientific evidences and proposed in a top – down manner. They even do not look at the existing standards and the permissible levels for using products and materials and authorized usages and applications. They also intentionally ignore and close their eyes on the positive role of such plastic products in our life and civilization.

Accordingly we believe that some issues in particular chemicals of concern and primary plastic polymers are fully irrelevant to our scope of work and mandate. To this, we should refer to other issues such as phase out dates, global list, Annex X and Y also the review committee which are either unrealistic, too aspirational and impossible to achieve globally.

Further, as expressed before, any list and annex before we agree on some points of concern are not possible to accept and add to the instrument. The need for establishing a review committee and its procedure should be also be assessed and followed under other articles this instrument.

We believe first we should agree on concerns of plastic product and we suggest to achieve a common understanding regarding areas of concern on plastics products. Then we need to have an assessment for alternatives and their socio-economic and environmental impact for replacement, before we reach to decide to impose any limitation and reduction of any plastic products.

Tio this we should also add criterias such as availability, accessibility and affordability of the possible alternatives in their life cycle.

Accordingly, regarding our concern regarding plastic product a set of criteria should be considered including:

- identifying plastic products which are not reusable or recyclable in practice or at scale not because of the lack of technology in recycling technology and hardware. (In parity with Article 3 Chair Text Section c)
- Certain plastic products that can contaminate recycling streams , hindering the recyclability of other material and disrupting the circular economy .(In parity with Article 3 Chair Text Section d)
- Intentionally added Microplastics Products: (In parity with Section e of Article 3 of the Chair's text)

We should also exclude the plastic products which are used for health purposes.

Mdam Chair

Looking the list of issues, we could classify them into various levels of acceptance. This suggests that for self-determined national measures, there is a broad acceptance. For national reporting we also have the support of the majority. Accordingly, a set of criteria is also needed and we see broad support for it.

On the need for a specific body or a subsidiary body, we see some support but still broad dispute on its mandate, format and composition as well as on nature of its work to be advisory and informative to allow nationally determined nature of the decisions and actions in accordance with national circumstances and capacities of each party or to be prescriptive based on a top down approach.

Certainly, such prescriptive attitude which is trying to recommend and impose a global list and dictate national actions to the parties beyond their national circumstances and capacities will have a restrictive impacts on the universality of the future instrument and this is something that we should necessarily avoid.

Chair, we do not want to have an instrument only on paper, we wish to adopt and enforce an agreement which is implementable and achievable. And we wish to

adopt an instrument which would not hamper our sustainable development while ensuring protection of our environment and the health of our peoples.