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## Position of the Syrian Arab Republic on the Draft Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution, Including in the Marine Environment

### Introduction

The geographic location of the Syrian Arab Republic, situated along the historic Silk Road, positions it as a significant economic hub. This underscores the importance of ensuring the full sovereignty of the Syrian state over its entire territory, and emphasizes the necessity of eliminating unofficial border crossings. Such measures would facilitate governmental oversight and control over the illicit trade of substances covered under the proposed agreement.

In line with its longstanding commitment to the principles of sustainable development, strengthening environmental governance, and the advancement of post-conflict reconstruction priorities, the Syrian Arab Republic is participating in the current session of international negotiations in Geneva aimed at formulating a legally binding agreement to address plastic pollution.

This participation reaffirms the Syrian Arab Republic's steadfast position on the urgent need to confront global environmental challenges, foremost among them is the threat posed by plastic pollution to ecosystems and human health.

Having reviewed the draft instrument in question, as well as the report on the current status of plastics in the Syrian Arab Republic, which is based on non-foundational reference data, the Syrian Arab Republic affirms that its negotiating position is anchored in the following principles:

- Recognition of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR).
- The right to adopt solutions appropriate to national circumstances, while upholding the principle of national sovereignty.
- The right, based on national conditions and circumstances, to request exemptions from specified phase-out deadlines for certain plastic materials.
- The right, in accordance with national circumstances, to seek exemptions and exceptions from specific substances listed in the agreement.



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- The right to request sectoral exclusions from the scope of the agreement - including, but not limited to, the health sector, construction, alternative energy, transportation, scientific research, and military applications - based on national needs.
  - The Syrian Arab Republic emphasizes that the immediate implementation of certain provisions of the instrument may compromise its ability to fully comply.
  - Moreover, the provisions related to sustainable product design and reuse are not feasible in the absence of sufficient technical and financial support, particularly given the lack of infrastructure required for lifecycle management of plastics. While Syria is generally considered an oil-producing country, it does not manufacture the raw materials necessary for the plastics industry. The plastic lifecycle, begins from the stage of manufacturing the plastic product to end-of-life waste management.
  - The Syrian Arab Republic calls for a gradual phase-out, rather than a complete ban, of plastic products covered under the agreement.
  - The Syrian Arab Republic stresses its commitment to developing a national plan to reduce plastic pollution and to gradually reduce substances listed in the instrument is conditional upon the availability of affordable, reliable alternatives, and the provision of adequate technical and financial assistance needed throughout the process.
  - The Syrian Arab Republic strongly supports the establishment of a dedicated International Financing Mechanism under the plastic pollution agreement, to be funded by developed countries in supporting of developing countries—particularly those emerging from conflict situations.

### **Conclusion**

The International Agreement on Plastic Pollution currently under negotiation in Geneva constitutes a critical test of the international community's capacity to address global environmental challenges. It represents a meaningful opportunity to move collectively toward a sustainable future—one that requires concerted national and international efforts to reduce plastic pollution across the globe.