Thailand Reflections on the Part II.10b
Transboundary movements of [non-hazardous] plastic waste
26 April 2024

Part II

10b. Transboundary movements of [non-hazardous] plastic waste

Thailand supports to have the provision of Part II.10b Transboundary movements of [non-hazardous] plastic waste to be included in this instrument. Consequently, we support the Part II.10b to have a title as “Transboundary movements of plastic waste” and also to have Sub-Option 1 and Sub-Option 3 of the co-facilitators’ streamlined texts as a basis of discussion in this provision.

Reaffirming the precautionary principal approach, the rationale behind our position on this provision, which is quite far from the reason of avoiding the duplication of the existing multilateral agreement, among others, the Basel Convention, is as follow:

Firstly, the transboundary movements of the plastic waste is a part of the life cycle of plastics as a downstream phase.

Secondly, the Basel Convention can only engage its Parties which the list of member states does not cover all member states of the United Nations or even all future Parties of this instrument.

Thirdly, according to the Basel Convention Plastic Waste Amendments, only plastic waste that fell into the Annex II and VIII of the Basel Convention have been controlled the transboundary movements with the prior and informed consent scheme; while those plastic waste under the Annex IX of the Convention are out of the control measures under the Basel Convention. Therefore, currently we have no proper control measure to ensure that the transboundary movement of non-hazardous plastic waste does not contribute to plastic pollution in the future as well.

In conclusion, in our view, this provision should be built with a view to ensure that this instrument provides sufficient control measures and fill the gap of existing conventions in order to prevent the plastic pollution from transboundary movements of either hazardous or non-hazardous plastic wastes.