Part II-7 EPR

Adequate discussions have been held on the EPR scheme under the international framework such as the Basel Convention. Technical Guidelines for the Environmentally Sound Management of Plastic Wastes, adopted by the sixteenth Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on 12 May 2023, which states that "There is no “one-size-fits-all” solution. The EPR instrument(s) that is/are the most appropriate to a specific region/country, taking into consideration market conditions, national capabilities and circumstances should be selected. A country has full control of what is covered in EPR and how it will be implemented including how to define the producer". To ensure that waste is effectively recycled and disposed, countries have explored various forms of economic-driven measures, including EPR, taxes, fees, subsidies, and whether and how EPR is implemented should be determined by parties according to their national circumstances. Considering that EPR is one of the means to strengthen waste management, it is recommended that it be placed into B9 as a whole, rather than separate article. In terms of option, we prefer to discuss based on option 2.

Part II-8 Emissions and releases

With regard to emission and release, we recommend that predominant emission and release scenarios, substances and pathways should be clearly identified, including the emission and release of microplastics during plastic production, the release of microplastics by using of products containing intentionally added microplastics, and the leakage of post-consumer plastic products into the environment. Chinese delegation support identifying key sources of emissions and releases, developing sector-specific BAT/BEPs, strengthening the development of technologies for the control of plastic waste emissions and releases. Moreover, as far as we know, the unintentional emission and release of plastic waste, especially microplastics, is a common challenge for all countries around the world. More scientific research is still needed on setting dates for the elimination of plastic emissions and releases. We hope to hear more cases and analyses before considering them.

Part II-9 Waste management

Many member States have pointed out that the main factor leading to plastic pollution is improper plastic waste management. Improving the recycling rate of plastic waste, reducing long-distance transportation of plastic waste, especially transboundary movement, implementing environmentally sound management of plastic waste and strengthening the construction of facilities in various countries, especially developing countries, are fundamental to solving the problem of plastic pollution. The Chinese delegation supports more work on plastic waste management and encourages member states to take measures to strengthen the construction of plastic waste recycling and disposal facilities.

The zero draft proposes to meet the minimum requirements of collection, recycling
and disposal rates, or to set national targets and minimum requirements based on harmonized indicators. We would like to seek more clarification on the means and calculation methods of collection, recycling and disposal rates, and what the harmonized indicators are.

We would like to remind delegates that the Basel Convention brings the majority of plastic waste under its control in 2019. The requirements for the control of transboundary movements in the new instrument should be synergistic with the Basel Convention and should not conflict with or duplicate each other.

The zero draft calls for the prohibition or control of waste disposal practices that may result in the release of hazardous substances, and we recommend further clarification of the specific forms of waste disposal practices that result in the release of hazardous substances. The Basel Convention Technical Guidelines for the Environmentally Sound Management of Plastic Wastes provide guidance on environmental sound technologies. We believe that the new instrument should fully respect and utilize the technical guidelines and avoid releases of hazardous substances in accordance with the requirements of the technical guidelines.

Regarding fishing gear, we suggest the obligation should be in line with the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for the Marking of Fishing Gear.