

China's text proposal in CG1 on B1 Primary Plastic Production

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Thank you co-facilitator.

We appreciate the efficient and responsive preparation by the Chair, bureau and secretariat on the zero draft. We, however, want to point out that not all views expressed by member states during INC 1 and 2 have been duly covered by the current zero draft.

We want to remind all of members here, that we have reached a common understanding on the boundary of the full life cycle of plastics in the 5/14 resolution. The mandate of Resolution focuses on controlling plastic pollution, not plastics nor polymers. 3(b) of the Resolution has stated, as I quote, [promote sustainable production and consumption of plastics through, among other things, product design and environmental sound waste management]. We believe this word has specified the scope of the full life cycle management of plastics: it starts with product design and ends with waste management. As a result, any kind of restriction on the primary plastics goes beyond the mandate of Resolution and should be excluded from the instrument.

In terms of pollution, we think the main causes of plastic pollution, are,

inappropriate design, wrong purposes of use, misguided consumer behaviors and mismanagement of waste, not the production phase of polymers. Those factors lead to the plastic leakage to the environment and risk our health. The control measures should be problem-oriented and intervene with the production and consumption of problematic plastic products. We are oversimplifying the problem by putting production cap on upstream polymeric plastics and this will disturb the regional and global supply chain of raw materials, and cause other unexpected consequences.

We believe, turning off the tap should not be turning off the production. It should be turning off the plastics flowing to the environment.

In this case, we propose that the draft includes one more option, option 4, that is primary plastic polymers should not be included in the instrument (This is text proposal. Please insert it in the zero draft). Please take the note. Thank you.