Cuba’s Statement

Part I. Preamble, Definitions, Principles and scope.

Cuba appreciates the effort of the secretariat to compile all the documents sent by members before September 15. It is the first time that we are debating the different ideas and options of the members on the preamble, scope, definitions and principles, so as it is natural in any negotiation at the beginning there is a wide range of criteria that as the debates progress, they will have to go converging.

For this reason, now we will only refer to basic and essential issues for my country:

1. It is important to keep in mind UNEA resolution 5/14, which gives us the negotiation mandate and is the guide for our work. For Cuba, the preamble and scope of the new instrument is basically already contained in that resolution. For this reason, we consider that paragraph 31 of the synthesis report is the information that should be included in the scope, because it refers to the elimination of plastic pollution.

2. We are really concerned about the perception that we are going beyond what we agreed to in that resolution 5/14. The focus of the new instrument is plastic pollution and not the regulation of production or international trade of all plastics, which, as we have stated in previous meetings, are products widely used in human life and that substitutes are not available for everyone.

3. It is important to address past, present and future pollution caused by plastics.

4. Definitions are necessary, but we must initially focus on a minimum number of terms, those that are truly essential to advance the obligations provisions. These terms can be determined from the discussions in working group 1 on obligations.

5. Also regarding the definitions we are concerned that new terms are being inserted, different from those in Res 5/14. Now we see that plastics and plastic products are mentioned in the definitions and in the zero draft. For Cuba, it is interpreted that this is the same. However, if what we want is to refer to polymers or plastic raw materials, we must call them that, and not “plastics”. With that clarity we will be able to move forward with our obligations. Unnecessary and avoidable plastics are also mentioned, we must agree to use a single term.

6. The principles are necessary, and within them the Rio Principles must be included, but we must also consider other principles related to the availability of means of implementation, the right to development that the fulfillment of the 2030 agenda should lead us to, and the Sustainable Development Goals, respect for the sovereignty of the countries and the gradual implementation of the instrument.

7. Finally, it is necessary to take into account the national circumstances and capacities of countries, particularly developing countries, which must be included in both the preamble and the scope, as recognized in Res 5/14.

Thanks