

**Intervention of India  
Contact Group I  
Evening Session 14112023  
Part II (1) Primary plastic polymers**

- At the outset the Indian delegation would like to reiterate that any restriction on the primary plastic polymer is beyond the mandate of UNEA 5/14.
- We would like to emphasize that per capita GDP of the countries is related to the production and consumption of plastic. For the developed economies, per capita consumption of plastics is more than 100 kg which is much above the global average of 35 kg. India's per capita consumption is only 14 kg.
- It is recognized that developing countries mostly have the production and consumption of plastics for meeting the basic needs and therefore is of subsistence nature.
- As many of us agree that it is the plastic waste management and related concerns along the life cycle of plastics that cause plastic pollution must form the basis of related provisions in the proposed instrument.
- There must not be no cap/binding target for the reduction or phase out on the production of plastic polymers.
- UNEA 5/14 mandates the development of the international legally binding instrument which could include both binding and voluntary approaches, taking into account the principles of Rio Declaration as well as national circumstances and capabilities
- This lists out the provisions wherein after specification of objectives, the focus is on promotion of Sustainable Consumption and Production through among other things, product design and environmentally sound management including through Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy approaches.
- We all understand that plastics per se are not menace. That is reflected in the mandate also of UNEA resolution 5/14 which is to end plastic pollution.
- Setting of targets for plastic production is not aligned with the addressing the objective ending plastic pollution.
- To meet the objective of ending plastic pollution, it is important to ensure sustainable production and consumption and not the setting up of targets for production or regulating primary polymers.

- It is important to note what is creating the problem is unmanaged and littered waste which gets leaked into the environment and causes adverse impacts on human well being and environment.
- The instrument need to focus on such aspects that does not lead to plastic ending as pollutant by taking actions that promotes reuse, recyclability and use of recycled content.
- Also, we must deal with the plastic pollution due to legacy plastic waste differently and it should not color our understanding of Sustainable Consumption and Production of plastics which would get established through this instrument.
- There are several other measures to achieve the objective and opting for the targets for production must not be the resorted to without addressing the issue of plastic pollution through Sustainable Consumption and Production.
- India does not agree with any of the options on primary plastic polymers as it is beyond the mandate of UNEA 5/14.

\*\*\*