

**Iran Statement on on behalf of the like-minded group
On developing an international legally binding instrument
on ending plastic pollution**

Distinguished Ms. Co-facilitator

Respected colleagues and friends

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning

My delegation is speaking on behalf of the like-minded group consisting Bahrain, China, Cuba, I. R. of Iran, Saudi Arabia, Russian Federation and a number of other countries which would be disclosed in a later stage. We are very delighted to have the opportunity to join another broad discussion on plastic pollution and wish to extend our appreciation to you and the INC secretariat and all of those who organized such an important event. We also appreciate the Government of Kenya for co-facilitating and hosting this meeting.

Our Group also ensures its support to the chairs and active participation to this negotiation process.

We wish to emphasize on the crucial importance of this intersessional meeting for other discussions on identification of the obligations under the future instrument to end plastic pollution.

Accordingly, we strongly wish to suggest that our discussions and initiatives should follow a comprehensive approach and also address the merits of plastic together with inefficient plastic waste management in our sustainable development strive. This necessarily means that while being ambitious, we should be realistic in designing the new instrument, definition of its scope and the core obligations, avoiding any unrealistic obligations, actions and targets which are not supported by corroborated scientific reports, technical data and analysis and capacity building supports.

In continuation, we also wish to add that elements of the Instrument specifically the scope should be discussed first and then we move to discuss the principles and the definitions and preamble part could also be discussed in a later stage.

we reiterate that the negotiation process and the arrangements for the meetings should ensure a fair and equal participation of all member states.

Ms. Co-facilitator

Referring to the objectives the Instrument should promote environmentally safe and sound management of plastic wastes and reduce uncontrolled hazardous plastic pollution.

The Instrument should recognize that plastics are fundamental materials for sustainable economic growth. There is a need to fairly understand that plastic polymers are not pollutants, and plastic pollution arises from unsustainable patterns of consumptions including the leakage plastic wastes to the environment and its accumulation caused by the mismanagement of discarded plastic products.

Therefore, the instrument should pave the way for improving the waste management systems in general, and to promote environmentally safe and sound management of hazardous plastic wastes, and to reduce uncontrolled hazardous plastic pollution, in particular.

On principles, it should be based on a bottom-up approach, take into account, the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, as well as national circumstances and capabilities.

Accordingly, the instrument should recognize a clear differentiation in implementation between developed and developing countries.

It should respect the sovereign right of States to exploit their own resources, take into account the national circumstances and respective capabilities of countries, and addresses the objectives of the instrument based on a facilitative and supportive approach;

Furthermore, all the national action plans and the related policies and measures to cope with plastic pollution should be nationally determined;

We insist that trade policy measures for environmental purposes should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade. Accordingly, INC meetings is not the proper place to address trade issues which are totally beyond its mandate and the aspirations of its member states;

The Instrument should address the needs of all developing nations in particular capacity building through provisions of financial, technical, and technological support for transformation and transition of existing industries in these countries that will possibly be affected.

Accordingly, the Instrument should provide for an effective and adequate mechanism to deliver concessional finance and to facilitate technology transfer on preferential basis to affected industries and sectors in developing countries to allow for a just transition pathway to phase down plastics pollution by the agreement.

It is also expected that the Instrument to promote cooperation and partnership at the regional and international levels;

It shall also pay particular attention to capacity building and non-discriminatory approach and unimpeded access to technical and financial assistances.

And last but not the least, while recognizing the importance of synergy among various multilateral environment agreements, the Instrument should not duplicate the mandates, objectives, obligations and measures previously addressed under other environmental agreements.

On the preamble part, it should be brief and non-prescriptive of the obligation elements of the instrument, its language shall be very broad without going into details of obligations and of course to be in line with the objective and scope of the instrument;

- It should include a reference to assisting countries in developing their national legal and economic systems and to regulate and prevent marine plastic pollution from land-based and sea-based sources;
- It should highlight the support to the national initiatives to incorporate national legal provisions for marine plastic litter into various sectors of legislation, such as legislation on fisheries, fresh water, protected areas, production and consumption and solid waste management;
- it shall elaborate references to develop the economy on the basis of improving the economic mechanisms and sectoral legislation in the field of waste management;
- Development of cooperation, and coordination framework among relevant regional and international bodies on reduction of waste plastic pollution could also be highlighted in this section;

Regarding the definitions, we could identify the elements after agreeing on the scope and principle in a later stage

Thanks Ms. Co-facilitator