Iran inputs for inclusion in sections Scope, Principles, definitions and Preamble of the Zero Draft

Scope:
The scope of the future instrument shall strictly be in line with the mandate as defined in article 3 of the UNEA Resolution No. 5/14 paragraphs 3(b) and 3 (c) indicating that the instrument shall include the followings:

- To promote sustainable development production and consumption of plastics, with the use of the best available technologies, product design and environmentally sound waste management, including through resource efficiency and circular economy approaches;
- To promote national and international cooperative measures to reduce plastic pollution in the marine environment, including existing plastic pollution. Implementing efficient recycling systems and promoting economy, where plastic waste is reduced, reused and repurposed, can significantly decrease the environmental impact of plastics.
- The core of the plastic pollution crisis is "the resource-inefficient, linear, take-make-waste plastic economy," which should be replaced by a rational and environment friendly economy.
- Further, the scope of the future instrument should focus on development and promotion of sustainable alternatives to replace hazardous additives.
- The scope of the instrument should exclude the stages of extraction and processing of primary raw materials as well as the stages related to virgin polymer production, since no plastic pollution is generated at these stages of production and raw materials can be used for production of other non-plastic products.
- Limitations should be put on unnecessary and problematic plastic applications, to make recycling techniques more efficient and environmentally sound, and biodegradable plastics to become a suitable alternative for single use applications of ordinary plastics.

Principles

- The main approach of the instrument should be based on sustainable development;
- Considering flexibility for developing countries without imposing an unnecessary burden on the economic and social development of such countries;
- Following a bottom-up approach;
- Non-discrimination and unimpeded access of developing countries to technical, technological and financial assistances;
- The right to development of developing nations;
- The sovereign right of States to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and developmental policies;
- International actions in the field of environment and development should also address the interests and needs of all countries;
- In view of the different contributions to global environmental degradation, States have common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances;
- The responsibility of developed countries in the international pursuit of sustainable development in particular through transfer of technologies and mobilizing financial resources.
- Any decision, measure, policy and or legislation to address plastic pollution should be nationally determined;
- Trade policy measures for environmental purposes should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade;
- Environmental measures addressing transboundary or global environmental problems should, as far as possible, be based on an international consensus;
- The need for international cooperation and partnership in good faith to address environmental challenges;
- Following a cooperative and facilitative approach;
- Capacity-building and awareness raising;
- Equity and just transition;
- Avoid duplicating other multilateral agreements and efforts.
- In designing the new instrument the adverse impacts of response measures of the countries on other countries and a mechanism to cover and compensate the possible losses of the affected countries should be adequately and properly addressed.

**Preamble:**

- It should be brief and concise;
- The language shall be very broad without going into details of obligations and of course in line with the objective and scope of the instrument;

  • To consider assisting countries in developing their national legal and economic systems with a focus on regulating and preventing marine plastic pollution from land-based and sea-based sources;
  
  • To include references to supporting 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;
  
  • Elaborate the importance of improving 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 plastic pollution;
  
  • Undertaking scientific and technical research and studies to address plastic pollution and plastic waste management.

**Definitions:**

This section and its elements should be developed in coordination with the outcomes of the discussions on other issues such as principles and scope of the instrument. However, some undisputed and agreed terms and definitions could be learned and adapted from other MEAs taking into account the new context in which they should be applied to.