Iran Statements on Agenda Item 4
Potential options for elements towards an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution

Distinguished Mr. Chairman
Respected colleagues and friends
Ladies and Gentlemen
Good Morning,

My delegation is very delighted to have the opportunity to join another broad discussion on plastic pollution and wishes to extend its appreciation to you and the INC secretariats and all of those who organized such an important event. We also appreciate the France Government for hosting this meeting.

The Iranian delegation also ensures its support to the chairs and active participation to this negotiation process. We also wish to associate itself with the statement by the Philippines on behalf of the Asian Group.

The Islamic Republic of Iran acknowledges the importance of these discussions to reduce and end plastic pollution and assures to be positive and constructive in the course of negotiations.

My delegation also acknowledges the importance of the discussions made during the first session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee, and also appreciates the secretariat for its efforts to prepare a draft potential elements structure for consideration by this committee meeting.

Accordingly, Iran believes that this document is a starting point and a guiding source for future discussions and it should not prejudge the final decision and the core elements of an instrument on plastic pollution which would be made at the end of the negotiation process by the member states.

The drafting initiatives should follow a comprehensive approach and also address the merits of plastic together with inefficient plastic waste management in our development strive. This necessarily means that while being ambitious, we should be realistic in designing the new instrument, its scope and the core obligations, avoiding any unrealistic obligations, actions and targets in particular for developing nations which does not have the technical capacity, and no proper access to technology and finance.
In this line, unlawful extraterritorial limits and barriers imposed on developing countries to access finance and technology should also be addressed when discussing means of implementation and designing appropriate mechanisms to facilitate unimpeded access of all developing nations to finance, technology and capacity building.

Even the industries and economies of a significant number of developing nations rely on plastic trade and industry and this means that the new instrument should also focus on the adverse impacts of the new instrument on these countries, making it necessary to address their legitimate economic concerns and losses.

The said document could include the objective, substantive provisions and means of implementation as well as both legally binding and voluntary measures.

we would also like to commend the parties' efforts in the successful adoption of the Plastic Technical Guidelines under the Basel Convention, fostering international cooperation and progress towards environmentally sound plastic waste management.

In continuation, we also wish to add that all elements of the Instrument in particular the Principles should be discussed in parallel and simultaneously with other parts such as Objectives and the core obligations, and accordingly we oppose to defer it to the future stages.

At the end, it should be urged that the negotiation process and the arrangement for the meetings should ensure a fair and equal participation of all member states. It should necessarily avoid very late night sessions for core issues and also too many parallel meetings.

Thanks Mr. Chairman and looking forward to work with you and all friends in the room for a more health world

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