REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Third session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-3) to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment

15 November 2023

On Part I (5) - Product design, composition, and performance

As regards product design and performance under 5a, the Philippines prefers Option 1.

The country likewise supports Annex C Part I to contain “(1) Minimum design and performance criteria for plastics and plastic products, including general and sectoral design and performance criteria; and (2) Other related elements, including in relation to certification and labeling as relevant”.

It is sensible for the Philippines, which has a large market for imported products, as well as exports, to agree on a global standard for product design, performance, and safety standards. Poor quality products likewise add to the country’s burden to manage post-consumer waste. This binding design requirement should have sound supporting research that backs up science-based policy development.

For Section 5b, the Philippines prefers Option 1.

The country likewise supports Annex C Part I to contain “Minimum targets for reduction, reuse, refill and repair of plastics and plastic products, including general and sectoral targets.” The Philippines still reserves the right for a further review in case global or national targets, baselines, and timeframes on reduction and reuse will be proposed in Annex C Part II in the future.

In the case of refills, deference is given to national and global policies on refilling as part of the manufacturing process.

As to the use of recycled plastic contents under 5c, the Philippines supports Option 2.

The country likewise supports Annex C Part III to contain “General and/or sectoral elements relating to the establishment of minimum recycled content requirements and targets”.

Besides the Zero Draft’s absence of a separate section on “Recycling”, the Philippines supports the use of post-consumer recyclates but shall need safeguards regarding the presence of toxic materials in the products, review of permitting systems for facilities that recycle plastics or manufacture products with recyclates, and the availability of
technologies for retrofitting, as needed. The Philippines, enshrined in its waste management and EPR policies, shall likewise consider cost implications to protect its consumers, as a number of recycled materials are costlier than virgin ones especially when crude oil prices drop.

On the alternative plastics and plastic products under 5d, the Philippines prefers Option 1 in combination with Option 2.2.

The Philippines encourages the cost of shifting as part of economic considerations. Research is also encouraged to determine “better” plastic alternatives as compared to current polymers used. Oxodegradables, as alternative plastics, shall not be included as an option due to their risks of becoming microplastics.