AGENDA ITEM 4.

PHILIPPINE STATEMENT

Second Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-2)
To Develop an International Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution,
Including in the Marine Environment

MR. PRESIDENT, YOUR EXCELLENCIES, AND DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES [In French]

We convey deep appreciation to the Government of France and the UNEP Secretariat for hosting this significant event, and to UNESCO for providing our venue.

The Philippines is gravely concerned about the escalating crisis of plastic pollution. Although we are a relatively minor producer of plastic, the rise in global plastic production, driven by the demand for inexpensive packaging materials in various industries, has led to increased plastic waste, that poses significant environmental and health risks.

The Philippine government has enacted laws to address this problem, such as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2001, recently amended by the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Act. This shows that Filipinos take solving this problem seriously.

However, addressing downstream measures domestically alone is insufficient. We recognize the need for a comprehensive, full life cycle approach to tackle the transboundary plastic pollution problem, through our global collective action.

We, therefore, welcome this second INC and the ongoing negotiations for a Plastic Pollution Treaty, as mandated by the historic UNEA Resolution 5/14.

This Treaty could comprehensively address the issue by considering the entire life cycle of plastic.

Taking into account the Options Paper based on the submissions of states and other stakeholders, we look forward to working on establishing global binding rules aimed at doing the following:

- Establish a global framework for Extended Producer Responsibility, and define criteria or guidelines for essential elements of such schemes.
- Define targets and deadlines for reducing plastic waste production, increasing plastic waste recovery and recycling.
● Include binding requirements for transparent information disclosure of chemicals used in plastic materials and products.
● Encourage innovation and investment in research and development of new sustainable materials and technologies through incentives.
● Regulate the trade of plastic waste between countries, ensuring that waste is not exported to nations lacking the capacity to manage it properly.
● Provide information to allow consumers to make informed decisions; and
● Establish robust financing, capacity development, and technology transfer for developing countries.

The Philippines sees the Plastic Pollution Treaty as an opportunity to become a global leader in sustainable practices and innovation. It could provide effective means of implementation that may have been costly or unattainable for individual countries, in accordance with common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and national circumstances, but more reachable when achieved through international cooperation.

This legal instrument could benefit developing countries, providing direct support for implementing the treaty's core obligations, and control measures, facilitating a just transition to a circular economy, environmentally sound waste management practices, advancing the development of alternatives, and generating new opportunities.

We look forward to fruitful discussions, inspired thinking, productive collaboration, and the formulation of a zero draft by INC-3, that will serve as a solid foundation for the final treaty.

Thank you.