Statement by the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) at INC-3

Part II Item 7 Extended Producer Responsibility

Nairobi, Kenya – 16 November 2023

Final

Delivered by: Solomon Islands on behalf of the Pacific Small Island States

It is an honor for me to speak on behalf of the 14 Pacific Small Island Developing States and we align with the statement delivered by Samoa on behalf of AOSIS.

PSIDS is supportive of the inclusion of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) into the instrument. Presently 5 Pacific Island Countries have implemented some form of extended producer responsibility, and 10 of our members are considering extension of existing schemes or implementation of new schemes to regulate several classes of materials including some plastic products and provide some financial assistance for the effective capture and processing of these materials.

Given our small populations, geographical spread and distance to recycling markets, having economically viable access to a global circular economy and recycling markets is a continuous challenge. The creation of National EPR Systems by all Parties where relevant would enable the Governing Body to consider the adoption of modalities that will help inform the establishment of these National Systems, connect national EPR systems, and create a harmonized approach to EPR systems that provides certainty for industry, and support for National EPR Systems, recognising the special circumstances of SIDS. This will also incentivize producers to actively integrate other elements of the instrument (such as sustainable design) into their business structure to ensure all plastic products developed can feasibly access the circular economy.

With respect to the options proposed in the Zero Draft, PSIDS advocates the merging of options 1 and 2.
We will submit the exact text proposal to the Secretary in writing.

I thank you.

Proposed text:

Preferred text

Option 1 with para 2 merged with Option 2 para 2.

1. Each Party shall establish and operate Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) systems, to incentivize increased recyclability, promote higher recycling rates, and enhance the accountability of producers and importers for safe and environmentally sound management, of plastics and plastic products throughout their life cycle and across international supply chains.

2. The governing body* shall, at its first session, adopt modalities to inform the establishment of national EPR systems and define their essential features, and to support their harmonization, taking into account how the measures taken would contribute to a just transition. These measures shall be reflected in the national plan communicated pursuant to [part IV.1 on national plans].