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

Part II. Item 9a Waste Management
Nairobi, Kenya – 15 November 2023

Final

Delivered by: Papua New Guinea on behalf of the Pacific Small Island States

Co-facilitator,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the 14 Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS), we align ourselves with the statement made by Samoa on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States.

PSIDS supports Option 1 which urges the Parties to take effective measures to ensure that plastic waste is managed in a safe and environmentally sound manner through its different stages of the waste hierarchy. The option supports putting in place requirements to ensure that Parties meet the minimum safe and environmentally sound collection, recycling, and disposal rates aligning with the existing provisions, guidance, and guidelines in other international agreements.

PSIDS supports this option as it encourages the Parties to take necessary measures to prevent open dumping, ocean dumping, littering, and open burning that releases emissions of hazardous substances that can be harmful to the environment and human health.

We emphasize the vulnerability of countries like PSIDS to plastic pollution due to the lack of cost-effective and environmentally sound technological and local plastic life cycle solutions. In that regard, PSIDS supports investments in waste management systems, and appropriate infrastructure to cover financing gaps as well as incentivizes behavioral changes that enable environmentally sound management of plastic. In order to meet, option 1, it is crucial, that technical, financial, and capacity-building programmes including technology be provided to assist developing countries in meeting their obligations to the instrument complimenting existing MEAs.

We proposed to put in place a governing body provision in this option that will provide support for Parties to address this issue through the Means of implementation taking into consideration the special circumstances of SIDS.

We will provide suggested text.

Thank you.
Suggested text of 9a)

1. Each Party shall take effective measures to ensure that plastic waste is managed in a safe and environmentally sound manner throughout its different stages, including handling, collection, transportation, storage, recycling and final disposal, taking into account the waste hierarchy and special circumstances of SIDS.