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

Part II. Item 8 Emissions and releases of plastic throughout its life cycle

Nairobi, Kenya – 15 November 2023

Final

Delivered by: Tuvalu on behalf of the Pacific Small Island States

Co-facilitator,

On behalf of the PSIDS and aligning with AOSIS we present the following views on emissions and releases of plastic:

- PSIDS is agreeable to the language under item 8 particularly the range and types of plastics named - plastic polymers, plastics, microplastics, and plastic products as we think it is important to capture the releases and emissions from all these materials, across their life cycle, in this instrument.
- In this area of work, we also support the reference to seeking guidance from existing, agreed frameworks, such as the IMO and the encouragement of innovation in the prevention and capture of releases to the marine environment.
- As we are already witnessing the harmful impact of releases on marine life and marine ecosystems, which in turn impacts human health and the environment, PSIDS would like to see the addition of a reference to the marine environment in the list of areas where emissions and releases end up, particularly because of the transboundary nature of plastic pollution.
- PSIDS also supports the promotion of scientific and technical innovation in this item to prevent and capture the release, of microplastics, into the marine environment.
- We are also mindful that the obligation to prevent and eliminate emissions and releases requires adequate means of implementation and in this regard, considering the impact on the marine environment, we also suggest taking into account the special circumstances of SIDS.

We will provide suggested text.

Thank you.
1. Each Party shall prevent and eliminate the emissions and releases of plastic polymers, plastics, including microplastics, and plastic products across their life cycle, to the environment from the sources identified in annex E by the dates identified therein. The emissions and releases covered under this provision should include:
   a. Emissions of hazardous substances, including microplastics, to air;
   b. Releases to soil and water from the production, transportation and use of chemicals and polymers of concern, plastics and plastic products; and
   c. Releases of chemicals and polymers of concern, plastics and plastic products, including microplastics, to air, soil, and water including the marine environment, and ecosystems.

2. Each Party shall prevent and eliminate emissions and releases of plastic pellets, flakes and powder from production, storage, handling and transport, taking into account, as appropriate, the relevant provisions and guidance agreed in the framework of international organizations such as the International Maritime Organization.

3. The measures taken to implement the provisions of this Article shall be reflected in the national plan communicated pursuant to [part IV.1 on national plans], with necessary Means of Implementation taking into account the Special Circumstances of SIDS.

4. The governing body*, at its first session, shall adopt guidelines, including where relevant, sectoral guidelines, to facilitate implementation of the obligations set out in paragraph 1, including emission and effluent standards, sector-specific best available techniques and best environmental practices on preventing emissions and releases, and best available techniques and best environmental practices to capture and remove plastic pollution, including microplastics from freshwater bodies, the marine environment and ecosystems.

Parties are encouraged to promote scientific and technical innovation to prevent and capture the releases of plastics and plastic products, including microplastics, into the marine environment.