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

Part II. 1. Primary Plastic Polymers

Nairobi, Kenya – 15 November 2023

Final

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

Thank you co-facilitator,

I have the honor to deliver this statement with a focus on Part II Item 1, on behalf of the 14 Pacific Small Island Developing States

The Pacific region would like to put forward its concerns regarding primary plastic polymers and their adverse impacts of plastic pollution on human health and the environment from production including their feedstocks and precursors. PSIDS recognizes the importance of taking necessary measures to prevent and mitigate the potential adverse impacts on human health and the environment by the mandatory reduction of the production of primary plastic polymers.

The Pacific region relies heavily on the limited land area and vast EEZs of the ocean for food security. It is devastating to learn that 14 million tonnes of plastics enter the ocean every year and affect more than 800 marine and coastal species by marine plastics through ingestion, entanglement, and habitat change killing more than a million seabirds and 100,000 mammals.

PSIDS would like to reiterate the importance of putting in place stringent measures to prevent and mitigate the adverse impacts of the production of primary plastic polymers on human health and the environment. Furthermore, we would like to ensure that the legally binding instrument addresses the environmental and human health impacts through reducing demand and production of primary plastic polymers in the market and price-based measures, removal of subsidies and other fiscal incentives including the establishment of regulatory requirements for primary polymers producers. These proactive measures stated earlier are reflected in Option 1 under Part II of Item 1, and PSIDS supports and welcomes Option 1 to be a guiding tool that can assist in addressing plastic pollution through reducing production of primary plastic polymers.

We are supportive of Option 1 and its common provisions for Part II Item 1. PSIDS would like to use this opportunity to emphasise the importance of addressing plastic pollution throughout the full lifecycle of plastic, noting that it is an issue that can only be successfully addressed through collective efforts and shared responsibilities at the global level.
Thank you.