Sri Lanka

Contact Group 01 - Submission

7. Extended producer responsibility and Annex B

Sri Lanka emphasizes the significance of extended producer responsibility (EPR) as a key tool in addressing the plastic pollution crisis. We advocate for the mandatory implementation of EPR, specifically endorsing the modalities outlined in Option 1. However, it is paramount for the text to emphasize that EPR should surpass mere funding for recycling and the perpetuation of existing models of non-essential, unsafe, and unsustainable production and consumption.

Instead, the focus should be on prioritizing activities aligned with the zero-waste hierarchy. This includes the redesign of systems, materials, and products to prevent or reduce plastic pollution, incorporating safe and sustainable reuse and refill systems. These systems should operate on a closed-loop basis, characterized by lower material, carbon, and water footprints, while also providing increased employment opportunities and avoiding the use of chemicals of concern.

EPR fees should play a role in contributing to various aspects, such as infrastructure improvements, market development, enhanced waste management, support for informal waste workers and waste pickers, safe and sustainable removal of legacy plastics, remediation of polluted ecosystems, and compensation for loss and damage. Achieving this transformative agenda requires globally agreed-upon EPR criteria, including the eco-modulation of fees, and ensuring clear alignment with minimum requirements for reuse products, systems, and services.