General Statement of Sri Lanka

2nd Session of the Intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC) to develop a legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. 29th -2nd June May 2023, Paris France

Mr Chair, Excellencies, and Distinguish Delegates

First of all I would like to thank the Government of France for hosting this very important event, bringing many nations together in developing the legal binding mechanism.

Sri Lanka has taken many initiatives to minimize plastic pollution in the country also supported by several doner agencies in achieving the goals in the “National Action Plan on Plastic Waste Management 2021-2030”.

However, We would like to submit the views on the option proposed in the document.

The objective of the instrument will be crucial and Sri Lanka of the view that the formulation of the objective under paragraph 9(c) under potential options will reflect our desires.

“Reduce the production, use and discharge of plastics across their life cycle, including through the promotion of a circular plastics economy with a view to ending plastic pollution by X year and protecting human health and the environment from its adverse effects.”

Also we would like to highlight the importance of establishing global targets to reduce production of primary plastic raw material in order to control plastic inflow.

Mr Chair, Sri Lanka has ban 07 SUP items and other 04 yet to come in this year. However, these initiatives can be supported and justified through establishing globally accepted criteria to determine and prioritize problematic and avoidable plastic products, including unnecessary or short-lived products.

Also, recycling though it is proposed and practiced as a viable solution, considering the environment and health impacts it will be not be a long-term sustainable solution, as it could formulate chemical cocktail with different toxic chemicals and additives added in the product and release during ordinary recycling processes. Therefore, it is important to phasing out the toxic chemicals and additives being used in the production of Plastic. In addition, there is a risk of releasing microplastic during the process. Therefore, it is reiterated the importance of reducing the production of plastic.

Legacy waste is a serious issue for the countries with economic crisis in the absence of proper infrastructure for waste Management and recommend in considering a mechanism of assisting such countries in technically and financially. It is proposed to establish a fund supported by the private sector producers and manufactures of Plastic in this regard.
Also, it is proposed to introduce a mechanism to provide legal, technical and financial support in handling disasters (man-made/natural) related to plastic need to be included in this instrument.

Finally, I would also like to commend the UNEP INC Plastic Secretariat for their hard work and wish the deliberations to be very successful to save the planet for all living beings and the future generations.

Thank you