Written report back from the thematic side events during INC-2, Paris, 29 May – 2 June

Co-organizers of the thematic side events are asked to prepare a summary of the event (maximum 2 pages, excluding the annexes) and submit it to the secretariat no later than 9 June 2023. The secretariat will make the summaries available on the INC web-site.

1. Title of the side event: Existing plastic pollution: Challenges of SiDs and remote communities

2. Date: 1 June 2023

3. Co-organizers  

4. Co-organizing Partners, Presenters and titles:
   - Alexandra Harrington, Chair, IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law Task Force Plastic Pollution
   - Ambassador Ilana Seid of Palau for AOSIS
   - José Reyes, Vice Minister for Marine and Coastal Affairs, Ministry of Environment, Dom Rep
   - Senivasa Waqairamasi, Principal Environment Officer – RMU, Department of Environment, Office of the Prime Minister, Fiji
   - Ben Jack, Chief Strategy Officer, Common Seas
   - João Ribeiro-Bidaoui, General Counsel & Director of Global Public Affairs, The Ocean Cleanup & Innovation Alliance for a Global Plastics Treaty (IAGPT)
   - Gabriela Otero, Blue Keepers Project Manager, UN Global Compact LN Brazil
   - Kishore Boodhoo, University of Mauritius and International Science Council

5. Number of participants and breakdown of types of participants:
   - 40 people total, M = 14, F = 25, 1 = did not say

6. Key messages resulting from the event:
   - The event highlighted that SiDs contribute little to global plastic production and pollution, yet their blue economies are disproportionately affected by legacy plastic and its climate and environmental impacts. SiDs also have low-lying and remote geographies, which hamper effective waste management. Their small market size limits influence on upstream actors, who continue to accelerate production of the plastic products that arrive on their shores and pollute their coastlines. As such, in 2022, SiDs supported the UNEA 5.2 Resolution 5/14 to end plastic pollution and work towards an international legally binding instrument that will focus on reducing plastic production, phasing out single use plastics, and transitioning to a circular economy.
   - **SiDS Panel:**
     - **Alliance of Small Island State (AOSIS): Ambassador Ilana Seid of Palau**
       - QUOTE: “The small islands are disproportionately affected by plastic pollution because of our location near the intersections of many large ocean currents, our remoteness, our small economies and lack of access to large markets with sufficient waste and recycling facilities. The new instrument must include obligations to clean-up existing ocean plastic, not just for our own benefit, but also for the benefit of the global community. The Pacific, in particular, supplies much of the world’s fisheries and seafood, which is being contaminated by plastics and microplastics. Remediation of ocean plastics should be a priority for all of us.”
Ministry of Environment, Dominican Republic: José R. Reyes, Vice-minister of Marine and Coastal Affairs

Department of Environment, Fiji: Ms. Senivasa Waqairamasi, Principal Environment Officer

Intervention point at end from audience:

- Ruth Spencer, Chair, Chair, Marine Ecosystems Protected Areas (MEPA) Trust, Antigua and Barbuda:

  **QUOTE**: We in SIDS don't have money but we have lots of people - human resources with many youth who are idle and unemployed. People need to see the link between the harm from plastics and link it to their health. The plastics start on the land where the people live - it does not automatically go into the ocean. The IUCN Plastic Waste Free Islands project involved many youths and I heard them talk and share their experiences and it showed local ownership and buy-in and this is how the transformational change takes place.

7. Key policy considerations for the INC process resulting from the event, including the INC-2 discussions, and outstanding gaps to address in moving forward towards an international legally binding instrument:

- Waste policy related to trade (Palau) in the broader context of the SIDS managing their waste including plastic waste; in the end how does it get improved, who pays for exportation of trash and how to create sustainable economic incentives?
- The Dominican Republic noted the importance of EPR, this is a key point that many nations in INC-2 are supporting.

8. What are the key knowledge products and resource tools that are currently available to inform negotiators in this process (this is not intended as a bibliography, please provide a maximum 3-5 resources)? Please also comment on any data and knowledge gaps (if any).

- IUCN WCEL Briefings for Negotiators: in English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese
- IUCN Blueprint for Zero plastic waste in 4 languages:
  - To download the Blueprint, please do so here. (English)
  - O projeto está também disponível em português aqui. (Portuguese)
  - Plan maestro para un viaje hacia cero residuos plásticos (Spanish)
  - Plan directeur pour un voyage vers zéro déchet plastique (French)
- Common Seas resources: SIDS and the UN Plastics Treaty and Plastics and Health
- The Ocean Cleanup resources: Intercepting Plastics in Rivers and cleaning the ocean
- University of Mauritius and International Science Council resource: Holistic Approach to Tackle (Micro) Plastic Pollution: The Case of Mauritius
- UN Global Compact Ocean Stewardship Coalition: https://unglobalcompact.org/take-action/ocean
Existing plastic pollution: Challenges of SIDs and remote communities 1 June 13:30-14:45 CEST

1) The current state of plastic pollution in SIDS – challenges and opportunities for solutions, including from the private sector.

2) A discussion on needs of SIDS to effectively implement circular economy and waste management solutions (up-stream, mid-stream, down-stream): What we are hearing at INC-2 and how the needs could be addressed concretely through the future Plastics Treaty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Timing</th>
<th>Speaker Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>13:30-13:32</td>
<td>Janaka De Silva, Senior Programme Coordinator, IUCN Ocean Team</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opening Moderator</td>
<td>Welcome speakers. Objective is to feed into INC-2 discussion or potential options for elements for international, legally binding agreement (PowerPoint Presentation [une.org])</td>
<td>13:32-13:35</td>
<td>Alexandra Harrington, Chair, IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law Task Force Plastic Pollution</td>
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<td>Hearing from SIDS</td>
<td>Government engagement speakers: AOSIS, Dominican Republic, Fiji</td>
<td>13:35-13:50</td>
<td>Anama Solofa, Lead Negotiator – Oceans, Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), Claudia Taboada Flores, Director of Science, Technology and Environment at Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores República Dominicana, Senivasu Waqiramas, Principal Environment Officer – RU, Department of Environment, Office of the Prime Minister, Fiji</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentations</td>
<td>How global leadership from SIDS can help deliver a UN Treaty the world needs</td>
<td>13:50-13:55</td>
<td>Ban Jack, Chief Strategy Officer, Common Seas</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Navigating Legal Obstacles to Combat Legacy Plastic Pollution in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction</td>
<td>13:55-14:00</td>
<td>João Ribeiro-Bidaoui, General Counsel &amp; Director of Global Public Affairs, The Ocean Cleanup &amp; Innovation Alliance for a Global Plastics Treaty (AGPT)</td>
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<td>The private sector contributions to identify and light marine litter from both maritime and land-based sources</td>
<td>14:00-14:05</td>
<td>Gabriela Otero, Blue Keepers Project Manager, UN Global Compact LN Brazil</td>
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<td>Sustainable plastics free tourism for SIDS</td>
<td>14:05-14:10</td>
<td>Kshore Boobhoo, University of Mauritius and International Science Council</td>
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<td>Q and A and Closing</td>
<td>QA for participants</td>
<td>14:10-14:40</td>
<td>30 min QA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Closing, wrap up of key points</td>
<td>14:40-14:45</td>
<td>Alexandra Harrington, IUCN WCEL</td>
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