General Statement of Thailand on Agenda Item 4
at the Second Session of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee
on the Development of International Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution,
including the marine environment (INC-2)
29 May - 2 June 2023, UNESCO, Paris, France

Thank you very much, Merci Beaucoup, Mr. Chair.

Good Afternoon, Bonjour, SAWASDEE Ka,

At the outset, since Thailand takes a floor at the first time; we would, therefore, like to express our sincere appreciation to the Government and People of France for their warm hospitality. Our profound gratitude is also extended to the Chair of the INC for your leadership and dedications and the Secretariat for their tireless efforts to make the second session of INC happen in an effective manner.

Thailand also aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Philippines on behalf of the Asia Pacific Regional Group.

To tackle plastic pollution, Thailand has put our utmost efforts in plastic waste management through the policy formulation and implementation at all levels. As guided by the Roadmap and the Action Plan on National Plastic Waste Management, the Government has adopted a life-cycle approach and the circular economy, as among key areas of our Bio-Circular-Green or BCG Economic Model, to prevent plastic waste and promote sustainable consumption and production of plastics. The voluntary measures and application of local wisdom and knowledge in addressing plastic issues, in particular waste management, have been also introduced through the partnership between the Government and relevant stakeholders, especially with the private sectors, to reduce single-use plastics and shift to alternative materials and innovations.

To further enhance the circularity, Thailand has recently announced the prohibition of plastic scrap imports starting from January 1, 2025. This shall support the domestic supply of plastic circularity in terms of both quality and quantity using as recycled feedstocks in domestic plastic industrial sectors.

Looking ahead to the potential elements towards the instrument prepared by the Secretariat in consultation of you, Mr. Chair, Thailand would like to share our views as follows:

First, building on the UNEA Resolution 5/14, protection of the human health and environment from the adverse effects of plastic pollution throughout the entire life cycle of plastics should be captured in the objectives of the instrument. Regarding to its structure, Thailand is of the view that a specific convention containing core and standard provisions, as well as the necessary technical information and substantive annexes would provide a flexible format for the negotiations. Prescribing glossary on the key terms such as “Plastic” “Plastic Pollution” “Problematic Plastic” “Virgin plastic production” “Life Cycle Approach” and “Life Cycle Assessment”, etc. should be defined to develop the mutual recognition among all stakeholders.
Second, among others, the possible core obligations should also particularly be addressed on issues of the harmful chemical additives, recycling and waste management, and relevant standards. The control measures should be imposed throughout the plastic value chain covering upstream, midstream and downstream. Furthermore, additional prescriptive measures to prevent and control unintentional leakages of plastic pollution, in particular micro- or nano-plastics, into the environment from each stage should be included.

Third, scaling up capacity building and awareness raising, technical and financial assisting, and technology transferring are needed in securing the strong means of implementation. Additionally, the effective implementation measures should be composed of, but not limited to, the National Action Plans, national reporting mechanism, monitoring and evaluating system at all levels, and the compliance.

Having considered on financial resources, one single scheme or solution may be inadequate to support the implementation by countries, especially developing countries. Application of the integrated solutions, comprising existing or innovative financing mechanisms should be considered in alignment with the national contexts while taking into account its circumstances and capabilities.

Distinguish colleagues,

Thailand does hope that deliverables of the INC2 should focus on two pillars (1) identifying key potential elements for core obligations and means of implementation, based on the potential options document, while taking into account the possibility to be sketched a zero-draft text in an effective manner; and (2) drawing intersessional necessary workplans, in particular the works of a drafting group or any necessary works needed in parallel, among others, ones in relation to scientific and evidence-based actions, such as works on the list of hazard chemicals or problematic plastics.

Much work remains to be done. Thailand reaffirms the commitment to support the work of INC and our readiness to be a constructive partner in developing an ambitious instrument. We wish this meeting a fruitful discussions with deliberations and inputs from all stakeholders as it will be the important groundwork for next sessions.

I thank you.