Second Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on plastic pollution (INC2)

UNIDO statement

29 May- 2 June 2023

Thank you, Chair.

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) also wishes to extend its gratitude to the Government of France for its warm welcome and for hosting this meeting.

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

UNIDO welcomes the INC process aiming at eliminating plastic pollution. UNIDO is already actively supporting its Member States’ goals in fighting plastic pollution through national, regional and international action plans and interventions, contributing to various instruments, such as the G7 Sapporo Communique on reducing plastic pollution by 2040.

UNIDO’s initiatives in collaboration with our Member States promote circular economy practices along the plastic value chains to reduce plastic pollution.

With funding from the Government of Japan, UNIDO implements projects in Egypt, Nigeria, and South Africa. Allow-me to offer a few insights:

- Firstly, in Egypt, our efforts focus on reducing plastic waste leakage into the environment, by working with industry on eco-design, by conducting awareness raising campaign, and by supporting the development of new regulation to control the usage of plastic bags.
- Secondly, in Nigeria, UNIDO supports the development of policy implementation guidelines for plastic waste management, working with relevant stakeholders from Federal and State governments to municipalities, and industries and aiming at sustainable plastic recycling value chain.
- Thirdly, in South Africa, an Action Plan for sustainable transitions towards alternatives from conventional plastic food container was developed, building on life cycle sustainability assessment, and involving informal waste pickers.
Furthermore, UNIDO values multi-stakeholder partnerships that contribute to fighting plastic pollution at all levels: firms, institutions and government levels. In cooperation with partners such as the Global Environment Facility, UN agencies, and Member States such as Canada and Norway, UNIDO is implementing a multitude of projects. Some of the achievements include strengthening the national capacity in Ghana and establishing a Centre of Excellence for Circular Economy in the country, as well as implementing an integrated approach towards sustainable plastics use and (marine) litter prevention in Bangladesh.

Let us recall that our biodiversity is declining faster than at any time in human history. UNIDO takes this opportunity to invite members today to join our common efforts to advocate for a global just circular economy transition through the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency.

UNIDO remains fully committed in supporting its Member States in transitioning towards a circular economy by closely working with all relevant stakeholders and hence directly contributing to the objective of this INC process.

I thank you and back to you, Chair