

2nd MEETING OF THE AD HOC OPEN-ENDED EXPERT GROUP ON MARINE LITTER AND MICROPLASTICS – GENEVA, 3-7 DECEMBER

STATEMENT BY BRAZIL

Combating marine environmental pollution and, specifically, marine litter, is a priority for Brazil. In the framework of UNEP, in September 2017, Brazil joined the global campaign "Clean Seas: sea is not for plastics ". Brazil has also taken part, since 2017, in the contact group on the "Global Partnership on Marine Litter", to discuss the effectiveness of strategies and approaches to marine plastic litter and microplastics.

2. Brazil has also been following the Program of Action for the Protection of Marine Ecosystems threatened by Land Activities (GPA) of UNEP. Brazil participated in the "4th Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the GPA" in Bali, Indonesia.

3. From 2017 onwards, Brazil has taken part in the Global Partnership on Marine Litter / GPA, which allows greater visibility to policies adopted for the sector.

4. Brazil welcomes the current meeting of the Open Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics as a way forward to exchanging experiences, best practices and developing a global policy to combatting marine litter.

5. The topic is also part of the National Policy of Solid Residues (PNRS), established by Law 12305/2010, which provides for the reduction of waste generation and proposes the adoption of sustainable consumption habits and a set of instruments to increase recycling and the re-use of solid waste, in particular selective collection, reverse logistics agreements, dump closure and environmental education;

6. Complementing the above mentioned waste management legal framework, the National Committee for Chemical Safety (CONASQ) prepared a draft law aiming to regulate industrial chemicals, including polymers produced or imported and used in Brazil, which is currently processing to the Presidency's Cabinet.

7. Moreover, Brazil submitted a voluntary commitment during the UN Oceans Conference ("Oceans Conference, held in June 2017 in Nova York, entitled "Development of a National Strategy to Combat Marine Litter ", based on the actions undertaken under the PNRS;

8. All the actions of the voluntary commitment are being fulfilled. I recall both a seminar on the topic held in Rio de Janeiro, in November 2017, and the production

of an educational film by the Environment Ministry, titled "Litter in the Seas". Last June, we started the preparation of the National Plan of Action to Combat Marine Litter. During the "Waste Expo" in São Paulo, on November 21, the Environment Ministry launched a consultation (electronic questionnaire) for collecting subsidies and suggestions from the public in preparation for the Plan of Action, whose publication is scheduled for June 2019 (Ordinance 188, 04/06/18).

9. With regard to institutional solutions to current barriers, we remain open to discussing options for the future. For the moment, and as main inputs to the UN Environment Assembly in March, Brazil favours actions that promote cooperation and exchange of experiences. Brazil also encourages sharing good practices and the creation of funding mechanisms to combat marine litter through national policies.