

## Canada – Overview of key elements

### AHEG-2 | December 3-7, 2018 | Geneva, Switzerland

#### Central themes

1. A holistic and evidence-based approach incorporating the lifecycle of plastics, from land and sea based sources, is needed to move toward a resource efficient and circular management of plastics to eliminate plastic waste and reduce marine litter.
2. Prevention is paramount and is the priority; however, action is also needed to address plastic pollution already in the environment, including capture and removal efforts on shorelines and nearshore areas.
3. Proposed actions should contribute to the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

#### Key elements of options moving forward

1. **Strengthen existing voluntary and binding mechanisms** via:
  - **Evaluating and pursuing a coordinating body** to convene existing frameworks and other key partners, such as Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and Regional Seas Conventions and Programs, to regularly share information and facilitate collaboration to improve global governance and avoid duplication.
  - Encouraging existing frameworks (e.g. Basel, IMO, FAO) to assess how plastics and microplastics could be more comprehensively addressed within their respective mandates, identifying the challenges/barriers, and request a report back to UNEA and/or a coordinating body on status by UNEA-5.
2. **Establish a central platform** to exchange information, identify capacity building opportunities, access reputable science, share demonstration projects and other learning opportunities, and connect stakeholders. This could be delivered using an existing mechanism such as the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) or the new General Assembly Global Plastics Platform.
3. **Consider an outline of a long-term governance approach** (voluntary and binding) based on robust analysis and sound evidence including a gap analysis to inform priority governance needs.
  - Further evidence is needed to identify what specific gaps/barriers will be addressed by voluntary and/or binding measures and rationale of prioritization, to inform a long-term governance strategy that is complementary and not duplicative of existing frameworks (i.e. need to know function before form).
4. **Mechanism to advance options post-UNEA-4** (e.g. an advisory or expert group)
  - Report back to UNEA-5, mapping out what priority gaps will be addressed, by whom, why, and by what measures to clarify roadmap of next steps going forward.