

General Statement dell'Italia per l'agenda item 4 di INC1

*Madame/Mr. Chair,
Madam Executive Secretary,
Excellences, Colleagues,*

- *Italy aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and its Member States.*
- *At the outset, I wish to express my gratitude to the Government of Uruguay and to the city of Punta del Este, for welcoming us in this beautiful venue.*
- *I wish also to thank the Secretariat for sparing no efforts in drafting the working documents for the preparation of this meeting.*
- *In this challenging time of post pandemic recovery and international crises, multilateralism has a fundamental role to play. The successful resumed fifth session of the Environment Assembly showed that ambitious decisions may give the international community and the young generations hope for the future.*
- *The instrument we are to develop in this Committee should become a real lighthouse on binding commitments, standards, voluntary approaches, and civil society engagement; on boosting scientific research to counter impacts on human health and the environment and assess long term solutions; and on supporting international cooperation for joint public-private projects.*
- *Italy has always shared the common European approach to support the Resolution 5/14 to end plastic pollution and thinks that a systemic change is needed to face all types of pollution and to adopt an approach based on the full life cycle of plastic, on the precautionary principle, on the extended producer responsibility and on the 'polluters pay' principle.*
- *To deal with a challenge of such a vast magnitude requires the participation of actors at all levels. We do not start from scratch. Some examples of bilateral and regional cooperation have demonstrated to be effective and they should be taken in due account.*
- *There are no simple answers to complex problems. To shift from incremental to systemic change, the instrument should provide effective guidance on how to accomplish the goal to end plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, through upstream, midstream and downstream measures, as well as monitoring measures, and specific targets applicable at national level and implemented through national action plans.*
- *The key factor is to accelerate resource efficiency in all sectors of the economy, as a leverage to adopt more sustainable patterns of production and consumption and an effective long lasting transition to circular economy models. The adoption of an integrated approach can allow accomplishing multiple goals at the same time, including emission reduction, as clearly indicated by the National plan for Circular economy issued in April 2022.*

Madame/Mr. Chair,

- *In conclusion, we do not have time to waste, we are drawing a picture where everybody can contribute to the well-being of future generations. Let us make sure*

that this picture represents a fair, sustainable, inclusive and above all a peaceful development for all.

- *I wish us all a good start of work!*
- *Thank you.*