

**First Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Expert Group (AHEG)
29-31 May 2018 | Nairobi, Kenya**

Canada's Remarks to Item 4: Barriers to combatting marine litter and microplastics, including challenges related to resources in developing countries

Canada thanks United Nations Environment for hosting the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Expert Group and congratulates the co-chairs on their appointments.

Marine litter, microplastics and plastic waste is an important issue for Canada particularly as a country with the longest coastline in the world, bordering three oceans and freshwater bodies. We recognize this is a global issue and there is a need for action.

The discussion paper prepared by the Secretariat is good and compiles more than 80 barriers and this is a non-exhaustive list. We recognize that this list of barriers may grow through discussions. We need to reflect upon why we have reached this point of increasing marine litter and plastic waste.

As such, we need to start focusing on the most important barriers and narrowing the list down to the top 10 or maximum 20 barriers. This targeted focus is needed to inform the discussion on potential solutions. We also need to discuss if the potential solutions will address these key barriers identified by the expert group. We appreciate the intervention by the Barcelona Convention that shared their experience and challenges. We want to continue to hear from those on the ground to understand why existing frameworks are not meeting our needs.