

Republic of Armenia

National Statement for INC-1

Distinguished chair and delegates,

On behalf of the Government of Armenia let me express our gratitude to UNEP and the Government of Uruguay for this opportunity to participate in this excellent organized meeting and also We congratulate Distinguished Chairman on his appointment.

Plastic impacts everyone at every stage of its lifespan. Many impacts of microplastics and plastic exposure are not well known. And it is essential to Join international efforts to address the global plastic pollution crisis.

How can we make this large-scale transition quickly enough? This is a difficult question.

According to the Government program of Armenia among the priority areas in the field of environmental management, a phased reduction and ban on single-use plastic products are fixed.

As the first step of this process, plastic bags were chosen as the target group. From January of this year the use and sale of plastic bags are prohibited.

This ban can be considered the first step aimed at reducing the volume of these products that have a negative impact on the environment and human health.

On behalf of the Government of Armenia let me highlight some aspects regarding this important legally binding instrument from our perspective.

The first and more complicated issue will be a selection of plastic types, which will be driven by this instrument. In this regard, we consider single-use plastic and microplastics as the more important types that should be regulated by this instrument.

The second challenge we consider is the equal opportunities for participation and implementation of developing countries, as most developed countries already have a large spectrum of plastic pollution reduction tools and capacities.

Some countries have the big progress and some have few steps towards the reduction of plastic pollution it is very important to create appropriate mechanisms to effectively join the instrument with the baggage or without it.

As from the different starting points, we will go to the same finishing line.

During the development of a legally binding instrument, It is very important to provide also linkages with Sustainable Development Agenda, particularly with SDG indicators 11.1, 12. 4, and 12.5, and also identify all cross-cutting and synergic processes and sources.

We consider that potential elements of the instrument should cover the following aspects.

- ✓ Main strategic targets
- ✓ Main types of plastics
- ✓ Main actions
- ✓ Preventive actions/ eliminating the hazardous chemicals from the lifecycle of plastics /
- ✓ Management actions/targets
- ✓ Recycling actions/targets
- ✓ Bunning actions/targets
- ✓ Identification and engagement of existing supportive tools like Extended producer responsibility toolbar and other instruments,

Armenia is actively engaged in the ongoing international actions on plastic pollution and we express our willingness to join The High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution and become a part of the collective power and joint resources of the international community, to deliver systemic change across the full plastic life cycle, and reverse the currently worsening plastic pollution trajectory.

The goal is very ambitious but we hope that implementation will become more successful.

