

## **Opening statement – INC on Plastics**

Greetings, UNEP Secretariat, representatives of countries and observers, first of all on behalf of the ASIA PACIFIC group, we would like to thank the government of Senegal for hosting this meeting in Dakar and for their great hospitality.

ASIA PACIFIC members commend the historic decision to tackle global plastic pollution. and we firmly believe in protecting the environment and providing the necessary measures to tackle this global issue.

The 5<sup>th</sup> UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) in Nairobi to forge an international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution is a step in the right direction. Global environmental issues require strengthening international coordination, cooperation, and governance for long-term inclusive solutions.

The intergovernmental negotiations committee's (INC) role in developing the instrument is essential. AND for its success it should take into account different national circumstances, needs and priorities,

- As we draw the framework on which we will operate, ASIA PACIFIC is of the view that the decisions under this treaty to end Plastics Pollution should be adopted by consensus, meaning no standing objection by any party can be ignored for a decision to be made. We believe in the principle of "leaving no one behind", and the rules of procedures should reflect this accordingly. This entails that all parties have an equal say in the decision-making process, ensuring inclusive outcomes accepted by the global community.
- This gives a road map to end plastic pollution through inclusive solutions. As stated in the resolution, "Recognizing the wide range of approaches, sustainable alternatives and technologies to address the full life-cycle of plastic" should guide our discussions.
- **We should aim here to have a holistic treaty focusing not only on upstream, but also addresses the downstream aspect.**
- **It needs to ensure practicality, taking into account the provisions of different national circumstances, needs and priorities.**
- For a successful treaty on plastics, we should take the Paris Agreement as an example.

It was agreed upon by consensus, drawing the map of tackling climate change challenges, through a bottom up approach, realizing the critical role of ensuring sustainable development, poverty eradication, and economic diversification.

- It's no secret that plastics play an important role in the development of our countries, especially those that are developing. Our task is ending the pollution caused by plastics, not necessarily plastics themselves. Therefore, we believe that we must utilize all available options, solutions, technologies, and approaches. For example, taking on circularity as overarching approach, closing in the loop on all kinds of waste "emissions, and material"

ASIA PACIFIC region members are committed and look forward to working with all stakeholders, in tackling this important issue and we wish a good start for the proceedings moving forward.