

Thank you Mr President,

On behalf of the Government of Brazil, I would like to greet everyone and recognize the importance of this negotiation event to develop a legally binding instrument on plastic pollution within the framework of the United Nations Environment Program

It is a pleasure to come to Uruguay to honor and participate in this moment that marks the beginning of the negotiation process.

I am here to highlight the direct connection between the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and plastic pollution, since reuse, recycling, energy recovery of plastic products and packaging are strong allies in this process and must be strengthened and scaled up as examples of profitable environmental solutions towards a new emission-neutral global economy by 2050.

In 2021 alone, 33 billion aluminum cans were recycled in Brazil, about 99% of the total, a world record. A can made from scrap uses 70% less energy and emits 71% less greenhouse gases.

In this sense, Brazil is a protagonist in the negotiations of the Conferences of the Parties for the Climate in the UNFCCC. At COP 26 we reached concrete results such as the regulation of a Global Carbon Market and the Global Methane Agreement, and at COP27 Brazil proposed the creation of a Global Methane Market along the lines of what already occurs with the carbon market focusing on in solid waste to encourage and accelerate composting and recycling.

During the COPs, Brazil defended that environmental and climate finance should, in our view, be a driving force for a carbon neutral economy and that it should now include the sewage and waste treatment sector as one of the main axes for global decarbonization. And Brazil has set an example.

New Landmark for Sanitation and Waste with record private investments for sewage and waste treatment, the Brazilian Zero Dumpsite program which has already closed over 800 dumps in 4 years, the Recycle+ program, which created the innovative recycling credit in addition to several Reverse Logistics agreements, the +Green Schools initiative seeks to arouse the interest of students with real actions such as waste separation, recycling, water use

and renewable energy, initially with the installation of biodigesters in schools. With the METHANE ZERO Program, we were the first country to transform commitments assumed during COP26 into concrete measures, with an exclusive focus on organic waste from the city and the countryside that can reduce by more than 30% of total methane emissions in Brazil.

Special mention should be made of the Clean Field Program with recycling of pesticide packaging at a rate of 94%, well above France and Germany, with 70%, and the United States, 30%, an indicator that demonstrates sustainability in the most regenerative conventional agricultural activity in the world.

Thus, the waste returns to the production cycle. This generates green jobs, preserves natural resources, prevents pollution, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. It is the circular economy in practice.

We now need to increase the recycling of other plastic products and packaging, in line with the discussions that took place this year on the occasion of UNEA-5, in Nairobi, and the Oceans Conference, in Lisbon. We need to take concrete actions in monitoring the sources of plastic pollution, chemicals

used in manufacturing, flows throughout the life cycle, impacts on the environment, health and others.

At the same time, avoiding unsound disposal and the launch of plastic products and packaging, which we know end up degrading and turning into microplastics, one of the biggest environmental challenges today, with several known impacts and others yet to be discovered. Another measure to be considered is to reduce the use of petrochemical plastic microspheres in cosmetics. We can thus reduce microplastics released into rivers and seas.

However, we know that it is urgent that we do something to reverse this scenario.

The South Atlantic is the cleanest oceanic portion of the planet and we want to preserve this important contribution we make to the world and, at the same time, encourage other countries to turn the tables on plastic pollution.

In order to encourage the first negotiations that are now starting, the Government of Brazil announces the voluntary commitment to recover, by 2040, 50% of all plastic packaging generated, avoiding its disposal in the environment.

We leave this commitment as a way to encourage other Parties to assume ambitious commitments in relation to plastic pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

These are some of the contributions we have to make. We remain at your disposal for dialogue and cooperation and wish you all an excellent and successful event.

Thank you very much.

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Our delegation would like to praise the hard work of the secretariat put into developing the working and information documents for INC1.

Brazil believes that our common goal throughout this process is to find viable solutions to the pressing threats of plastic pollution on both human health and the environment, and also lead our societies into more sustainable patterns of consumption and production. In that context, we cannot forget that underneath it we will be promoting systemic economic transformations.

In that context, Brazil would like to highlight that the systemic changes that will result from this future instrument aimed at ending plastic pollution, anchored in a life-cycle approach, should also be an opportunity to promote more equity while implementing it. Equity within our countries as well as amongst nations.

As we switch to a new economy of plastic we should secure a more just transition into a new system in which developing countries also benefit from future value chains within and around the different plastic sectors, especially when it comes to the supply of renewable green and safer alternatives, the development of infrastructure and access to technological innovation.

Obligations and control measures need to be ambitious so we can effectively tackle plastic pollution, from the provisions of renewable feedstock through addressing toxic chemicals and recycling to the sound final destination of wastes. In doing so, those obligations and control measures need to rely on evidence that encompasses environmental, economic and social impacts assessments, in order to secure that the systemic transformation we all hope for is effectively sustainable.

Thank you.

Intervention made by Brazil under agenda item 3.d.

On the issue of scientific and technical cooperation and coordination, research and awareness raising, Brazil is of the view that effective implementation of the plastics agreement would benefit from a permanent body, such as an independent expert panel, responsible for assessing overall progress as well as specific emerging issues, as Parties deem necessary. We do not envisage a heavy, separate institutional structure, such as the IPCC, but rather a panel akin to the Scientific Assessment Panel of the Montreal Protocol, which in our view has fulfilled its role very well. We would also note that, given the impacts of plastic pollution in the environment, human health and the economy, it will be key that this body has the expertise to assess the issues at hand from the perspective of different fields. For that, it would benefit from experts in different fields of natural, economic and social sciences.

Such a body would assist the COP of the plastics instrument in its work. However, evidence-based information is needed for our work at the INC as well. We will only be able to have thorough discussions on possible control measures if we have scientific data that informs us on why such measures are needed and what would be the possible repercussions of their implementation. We need to have access, for instance, to the state of the art of research on the impacts of plastics and their additives in human health on the full life cycle of plastics, in particular on vulnerable populations, such as workers. A large body of literature is already available out there, but we need it to be reviewed and compiled, as an input for Member states in our negotiations. It is up to this committee to agree on a way to have access to this type of information. One way would be to request the Secretariat to prepare specific documents on scientific literature covering different fields. We are cognizant of the burden already put on the Secretariat in terms of document preparation, so if that is not a viable way out, this committee must come up with alternative solutions to have this kind of information in a structured format, to facilitate our negotiations moving forward.

