

DRAFT PHILIPPINES STATEMENT

Thank you, Mr. Chair

Congratulations on your election as Chair of the Bureau of the Open-Ending Working Group.

We would also like to thank the government of Senegal for hosting this meeting. We offer our condolences to the Senegalese people on the tragic death of 11 newborn babies due to a fire.

We thank the UNEP Secretariat for coming up with the helpful documents to guide the work of this body.

Mr. Chair,

We recognize the enormity of the work of the INC to develop an “international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment” given its ambitious goals and tight time frame. We also recognize the important role of this body in setting the tone for the negotiations.

Mr. Chair,

The Philippines, through a multi-stakeholder process, has recently developed its National Plan of Action for the Prevention, Reduction and Management of Marine Litter with a vision of “A Philippines free of marine litter through shared responsibility, accountability, and participatory governance” and an overarching goal of “Zero waste to Philippine waters by 2040”.

Based on its experience thus far to tackle marine litter, the Philippines believes that the INC may follow the following principles:

1. Consideration should be given to national circumstances and a multi-stakeholder approach should be followed. We hope that the full participation of developing countries could be guaranteed.

In tackling the global nature of plastic pollution, the multitude of local systemic challenges that contributed and continue to contribute to plastic pollution should be recognized.

Thus, the Philippines espouses an inclusive, transparent, multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder ownership and accountability process to an internationally-binding agreement where both government and relevant non-state actors have roles to play.

While not all stakeholders agree on all issues, establishing common grounds minimize conflicting interests and maximize the potential for actions that have net positive benefits to environment, economy and society.

2. The Philippines supports a legally binding agreement that sets out implementation in accordance with the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR).

Observing the CBDR principle will empower all economies and all sectors of society to do their share in an equitable, fair and just way.

In implementing the Philippine National Action Plan on Marine Litter, the CBDR principle is also applied locally, meaning to each locality or sector within it. This reduces structural and demographic gaps more.

To have a successful plastic agreement, we believe that more transformative actions can be realized with international support, capacity-building, technology transfer and financing so that the country can effectively contribute to global efforts.

Mr. Chair, we express our full confidence in your leadership. You have the full support of the Philippine delegation for the work. Thank you.