First session of the Inter-Governmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution (INC 1)

Statement on Scope, objective(s) and options for the structure of the instrument (agenda item 4-2) – Switzerland

Punta del Este (Uruguay) – 29th November 2022

Thank you Mister Chair

With the UNEA resolution 5/14 we have the mandate to negotiate a legally binding instrument that has a broad scope covering the whole lifecycle of all plastics – starting at feedstock sourcing, covering the production of virgin plastics and products, their use, disposal, recovery and recycling including the reintroduction of recycled materials into the lifecycle.

The Swiss delegation sees the objective of the treaty to protect the environment and human health from plastic pollution. To reach this objective, we need to achieve sustainable levels of production and consumption, ensure a safe circular economy of plastics by excluding hazardous chemicals and problematic and unnecessary plastics and further ensure an environmentally sound management of plastic waste.

- Regarding the flow of negotiations, we acknowledge that an initial discussion on scope and objective is useful. A broad understanding will allow us to provide a sense of direction for the INC process. This said, we don’t yet need an agreement on these issues to advance the discussion on other items such as core obligations and control measures.

On the structure of a treaty, we need an instrument that includes legally binding global rules, including targets, bans and transparency requirements. Using the term as outlined in the INC document 1/4 we can best achieve this with a specific convention. Indeed, a treaty with annexes would allow for gradual strengthening.

Thank you very much chair.