Indonesia’s Draft Statement for Intergovernmental Negotiating
Committee (INC)-1 on Plastic Pollution Period 2022 – 2024
Punta Del Este, Uruguay, Nov 28 to Dec 3, 2022

1. At the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5), Leaders, Ministers, and other representatives from UN Member States endorsed a historic resolution that will address the full lifecycle of plastic, including its production, design and disposal. The resolution establishes an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC)-1, which will begin at Punta Del Este, Uruguay, Nov 28-Dec 3 2022, with great responsibility to draft a global legally binding agreement by the end of 2024.

2. The instrument will cover alternatives to address the full lifecycle of plastics, the design of reusable and recyclable products and materials, and the need for enhanced international collaboration to facilitate access to technology, capacity building and scientific and technical cooperation.

3. This is indeed a timely undertaking. UNEP reports that plastic production has soared from 2 million tons in 1950 to 348 million tons in 2017, becoming a global industry valued at US$522.6 billion. By 2040, the number is expected to double in capacity. Plastic production and pollution will impact climate change, nature loss, and pollution. The future of our earth.

4. Bearing in mind the mission it carries and the task ahead, the Government of Indonesia attaches great importance to the establishment of INC. This will be our collective effort to address the issue in a long-term approach, as well as to strengthen multilateral cooperation in environmental and climate actions.

5. Indonesia has a national policy to address marine litter and plastic pollution, which has been seriously implemented. For instance, within 2 years, Indonesia has succeeded to reduce marine plastic litter by 28.50% - from 615,675 tons in 2018 to 440,200 tons in 2021.

6. From a regulatory framework, Indonesia has a National Plan of Action on Marine Plastic Debris 2017-2025 and Indonesian Ocean Policy which serves as a legal and policy framework to eradicate marine plastic pollution. We have regulated producers to reduce the waste that comes from their products, packaging, and container as well as from plastic bags. The action provides a roadmap of waste reduction by Producer in the period of 2020-2029 by implementing waste limitations through a re-design programme and take back
scheme for recycling and reusing with a target of 30% of the total production of goods and packaging in 2029.

7. As a vast archipelagic country, we have also established several programme actions to combat marine litter and plastic pollution including building plastic waste facility on Islands, building plastic waste treatment facilities and applying ISO 14000 at National Fishery Ports, and providing SOP of sustainable fishery.

8. We also realize that there are opportunities that arise from sound management of plastic waste. Indonesia produces around 68.5 million tons of waste every year, of which 17% are plastic waste. They are potential for reuse and recycling process, including as materials in industry or other economic activities. Indonesia, therefore, continues to innovate and invent, to create an integrated circular economy process. This also includes initiatives in financing or incentives, that enable contribution from everyone.

9. Such positive direction nonetheless, we understand that we still need to work even harder and advance effective global collaboration, to achieve our target of reducing plastic litter. Inviting other parties such as local authorities, businesses, NPO/NGO, and academia to join the effort is a must.

10. UNEA Resolution 5/14 entitled Ending plastic pollution: towards an internationally binding instrument makes it clear that the main output of the Resolution is an internationally binding instrument. In this context, we consider it important that all member states need to have a clear definition of a legally binding instrument, with the intention that all parties have the same understanding of this issue, including the basic aspects of mandatory or voluntary, or a combination of both.

11. UNEA resolution 5/14 to end plastic pollution calls for a full lifecycle approach to using plastics. We are of the view that there is still no general explanation that defines what a full plastics lifecycle approach is. So, we hope that this approach can help in solving the problem of plastic waste in a comprehensive and integrated manner from upstream to downstream.

12. As we know the Basel Convention regulates plastics waste, especially trans-boundary movement of plastics waste. We need to ensure that there is synergy between the existing Basel Convention and the legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution as the result of this INC. We also need to avoid any duplication between the two instruments.

13. Member states are not in the same level in terms of capacity and capability to ensure the smooth implementation of the upcoming legally binding instrument of the INC. It is imperative to identify the need of member states for capacity, technology, and financial needs.

14. For this reason, Indonesia is committed to actively take part in the INC-1, to contribute to pathing the ways to end plastic pollution.

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