

Intervention by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), agenda item 4, commenting on UNEP/AHEG/2018/1/2

Thank you madam co-chair,

I am here representing the International Maritime Organization.

IMO, as the UN system specialized agency for safe, secure and efficient shipping and the prevention of pollution from ships would like to thank the Secretariat and our colleagues in UN Environment for the background documents, in particular the one on barriers to combating marine litter and microplastics. In this regard, and of relevance to our work to address barriers, I would very briefly like to bring to the meetings' attention the recent developments at IMO.

The 30th session of the IMO Assembly, held in December last year, recognized the ongoing problem of marine plastic pollution, as addressed in MARPOL Annex V, and that it requires further consideration as part of a global solution within the framework of ocean governance, in pursuance of SDG 14's target to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds by 2025. The Assembly referred the discussion to IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee and the governing bodies of the London Convention and Protocol for detailed consideration and action as deemed necessary.

Subsequently, MEPC 72 (April 2018), agreed to include a new output on its agenda, to address the issue of marine plastic litter from shipping in the context of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in particular SDG 14 (not least target SDG 14.1, addressing marine litter/plastics). Member Governments and international organizations were invited to submit concrete proposals to MEPC 73 (October 2018) on the development of an action plan.

The joint session of the Scientific Groups of the LC/LP in May this year) also discussed the issue of marine plastic litter, and amongst other outcomes adopted a statement of concern regarding the disposal of fibreglass reinforced plastic vessels at sea. These issues will be addressed further at the meeting the governing bodies in November.

With this intervention I just wanted to bring to your attention these recent developments, which are also aimed at addressing barriers, in this case to the implementation of the existing global regulatory framework.

Thank you madam co-chair.