



## **MALAYSIA'S COUNTRY STATEMENT**

### **Third meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics**

1. Marine litter and plastic pollution is a serious issue in our region. It is timely now for us to enhance our collective effort to sow the seeds that would lead to a long-term cooperation to address this problem.
2. Marine litter is not only an environmental issue but also has a significant impact towards health and biodiversity. APEC has conservatively estimated USD13 billion impact of marine plastic pollution to the Asia Pacific region. 70% of our marine litter consists of plastic-mainly single use plastics. Hence, one country will not be able to address this issue effectively. We need a multi economies cooperation, with a holistic action plan to boost this process with fruitful deliberations. This is also in line with SDG 14: Conserve and Sustainably Use the Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development
3. In this regard, we regret to inform that Malaysia is receiving huge amount of illegal plastic wastes from other parts of the world. We have

stepped up our domestic enforcement but we need all Parties to cooperate as some countries from where this plastic waste has come from is taking a very long time to take back this waste in spite of all our efforts.

4. Such illegal trade needs to be addressed by enhancing existing legal instruments or by establishing a new global treaty. We need to explore if current Multilateral Instruments can be used or augmented to address this illegal transboundary movement. We are encouraged by the recent amendments to the Basel Convention but we feel more has to be done. My delegation hopes our session here in Bangkok will come up with concrete recommendations to address this issue. If global governance is not strengthened, we are afraid this issue will not be solved in a holistic manner.
5. We at ASEAN have taken concrete steps to address this issue and we would like to place in record our appreciation to donor partners who have stepped forward in assisting with the implementation on our ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris that was adopted this year. We hope more donor partners and intergovernmental organisations will get on board to assist our region to address this global problem.
6. Malaysia also continues its active role as a member to the Coordinating body of the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) and ASEAN working Group on coastal and Marine Environment. These platforms are useful vehicles to strengthen our work on marine debris and plastic pollution.
7. Malaysia too feels there is a lot of opportunity to deploy technologies to address the issue of plastic pollution from enforcement to finding alternatives. In this regard, Malaysia also recognises that apart from reduce, recycle and reuse, we should also “**replace**”. This requires us to explore new technologies for alternatives such as environment friendly polymers, share knowledge and build capacity.

8. I too would like to emphasize Malaysia continues to take domestic action on this issue. This momentum was further enhanced following the launch of a policy document '**Malaysia Roadmap Towards Zero Single Used Plastics, 2018- 2030**' in October 2018.
9. Malaysia too feels at the core of this issue is also in increasing awareness and education as well as building capacities and having adequate resources. In this regard we need to work with NGOs, private sectors and international partners as governments alone will not be able to address this issue completely. Regional and international cooperation should play an active and constructive role in these other processes.
10. In this regard, my delegation attends this open-ended expert group meeting to find tangible solutions to address this global problem.