

MALAYSIA NATIONAL STATEMENT FOR THE INC-1
MONDAY, 28 NOVEMBER 2022
PUNTA DEL ESTE CONVENTION CENTRE, URUGUAY

Thank you, Mr Chair, for allowing Malaysia to take the floor.

Malaysia would like to align itself to the statement made by Jordan on behalf of Asia Pacific Group and begin by congratulating you Mr. Chair on your appointment, and to express our appreciation for the work and commitment by the Secretariat in organizing this meeting. To the government of Uruguay, we thank you for hosting the INC-1, and for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to us.

Your excellencies and distinguished delegates,

Today, the world is facing severe, transboundary plastic pollution, impacting human life and the environment alike. Without effective intervention, this severe impact will be inherited by generations to come.

All plastics are not the same, and therefore, should not be treated as so. Our mission here should focus on reducing unnecessary and problematic plastics and explore smart, safe and sustainable ways to use plastics, without hampering the economic benefits of plastics. Malaysia calls for the negotiations to include the elements of potential economic benefits in ending plastic pollution.

Developing an ambitious yet practical instrument calls for an honest, transparent, open and inclusive negotiation sessions so that no country is left behind. The success of establishing the draft zero legal text depends highly on the inclusiveness, and flexibility of the negotiations.

Your excellencies and distinguished delegates,

The instrument must consider truly comprehensive and viable solutions, with full life-cycle approach over the entire ecosystem of plastics, and across all sectors, both formal and informal. Solutions must be science-based to avoid non-viability and risking greenwashing.

Malaysia emphasizes the importance of adequate, coordinated, stable and predictable financing, for instance, through a dedicated multilateral funds, to be embedded into the structure of the instrument.

Innovation and technology transfer are key, especially in the area of waste management. However, they must be equally accessible and competitively priced for all countries. The progress of our effort must also be reflected through a robust, transparent and harmonized global reporting mechanism.

Although plastic pollution transcends beyond borders, the most effective work begins at home. Therefore, implementation measures should be country driven and considered in the local context taking into consideration national circumstances, country readiness and capabilities. The role of informal sector too, must be understood deeper in local context, to ensure the instrument's ability to connect the dots and close the loop in transitioning towards effective circular economy.

The success of the instrument calls for a whole of nation approach, allowing for the voice of all stakeholders to be heard. Through this approach, stakeholders shall equally share the responsibility of ending plastic pollution within their dedicated capacity in this instrument.

Malaysia looks forward to a productive INC-1 and to developing an ambitious, practical, economically and environmentally sustainable, and ultimately socially inclusive and just instrument.

Allow me to end our statement by wishing the best of luck to our host country and those competing in the Qatar World Cup 2022. May the friendship and unity on the field extends here in the INC.

Thank you.

MALAYSIA INTERVENTION : SUB-ITEMS UNDER AGENDA ITEM 4 (30 NOVEMBER 2022)

2. SCOPE, OBJECTIVE(S) AND OPTIONS FOR THE STRUCTURE OF THE INSTRUMENT

Thank you, Chair

1. The grand objective of this instrument should be pragmatic and grounded on the basis to protect human health and the environment taking into consideration the increased impact of plastic pollution on marine biodiversity, ecosystem, society and economies through the prevention, reduction and better management of plastic waste.
2. We are of the view that targeted intervention across plastic value chain is needed. We must acknowledge that currently there is a big gap in waste management across the globe especially in most of developing countries. Therefore, the scope of the instrument should provide for a progressive approach in mobilizing specific interventions. We see the need to start with a clear focus on preventing, reducing and better managing the unavoidable, most problematic and harmful plastic waste and move up the value chain in a progressive manner through a country driven initiatives taking into account national circumstances and capabilities.
3. We do acknowledge that this requires an overall system change that addresses full life cycle of plastics, and we need to understand plastic is all dimension. Production of plastic are as critically important as the disposal and its end of life. However, plastic is yet to exist at the point of extraction of fossil resources. Plastic only becomes material at the stage of polymerization.
4. We should not generalize control on the use of plastic and its component unless they have been officially sanctioned and scientifically proven to be hazardous or carcinogenic. So, our discussion should always be based on science and scientific data.
5. Finally Chair, Malaysia views that substantive matters must be first identified and deliberated thoroughly. Only then should the structure be established, based on the substantive matter. This allows the parties to evaluate the best and most effective structures for all countries. However, certain degrees of flexibility must be exercised in the structure to ensure the ability of the instrument to evolve according to future deliberations on specific, scientific and technical matters.

Thank you Chair.

MALAYSIA INTERVENTION SUB-ITEMS UNDER AGENDA 4 (1 DECEMBER 2022)

3(C) POTENTIAL ELEMENT OF SUPPORT TO MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF PROGRESS IN, AND EFFECTIVENESS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND NATIONAL REPORTING

Thank you, Chair.

As we all know, stages of implementation of national action plan vary among Member States. We know for sure in some other countries, such policies have been introduced long ago and have been well established. Hence, the level of implementation progress as well as its reporting differs while progressing towards the global commons.

National efforts to address plastic pollution require regional cooperation as well as international cooperation on topics such as alternative, standards, product design and management of plastic waste, among others. On this note Chair, we too need to acknowledge the reality on the ground especially in developing countries where data is lacking. And data being the key component in reporting, we strongly suggest for this instrument to take into account this gap and challenge and ensure fair and just transition in formulating provisions on national reporting taking into account country capabilities.

To ensure comparability and usefulness of data, a harmonised monitoring mechanism must be in place, including clear definitions of what needs to be reported, content, data parameters as well as methodologies.

Thank you Chair.

MALAYSIA INTERVENTION FOR SUB-ITEMS UNDER AGENDA 4 (1 DECEMBER 2022)

3(D) OTHER ASPECTS (SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION, RESEARCH AND AWARENESS RISING)

Thank you Chair,

Scientific and technical cooperation and coordination undeniably plays a pivotal role in ensuring the effectiveness of the instrument and eventually, in ending plastic pollution. Cooperation and coordination are also key in narrowing the scientific and technical gaps between developed and developing nations, while accelerating and complementing efforts and progress made at the national level.

Therefore, Malaysia strongly proposes for the establishment of a scientific advisory panel. Not only that Chair, it is equally important to establish a socio-economic advisory panel as an initiative to facilitate effective negotiation process. These panels will provide a platform for the parties to access peer-reviewed, high impact scientific research findings, among others, and to incorporate these findings in national action plans and strategies. This is also to ensure cooperation, effective coordination, continuity and coherence between the instrument and existing multilateral environmental agreements in order to avoid duplications.

It is also necessary for the instrument to include mechanisms that provide comprehensive socioeconomic assessment in the context of plastic pollution and plastic economy. This is especially important considering, the differences in national circumstances and socioeconomic situation.

Chair, despite multiple efforts to increase awareness, behavioural change of industry and business players as well as the public remains one of the biggest challenges in addressing plastic pollution and waste management. This challenge calls for targeted outreach efforts as well as dedicated communication, education and public awareness programs to influence and encourage behavioural change. Malaysia underscores the urgent need for increased collaborative efforts between the state and non-state actors to complement each other's efforts and hard work in advocacy and raising awareness in ending plastic pollution.

Thank you Chair.

MALAYSIA INTERVENTION FOR SUB-ITEMS UNDER AGENDA 4 (1 DECEMBER 2022)

3(E) STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION AND ACTION

Thank you Chair.

Malaysia reiterates its acknowledgement and recognition of the important roles played by multi stakeholders as well as non-state actors and expresses appreciation on the contributions by the stakeholders thus far.

1. Malaysia proposes that the engagement with stakeholders must be in the form of two-way communication to ensure understanding, clarity and productive discussions.
2. Malaysia supports the proposals of holding stakeholder engagement and intersessional sessions either via online, in person or hybrid. However, consideration must be given on the issue of time differences across regions to ensure effective and maximum participation by all stakeholders including member states, if it is done virtually.
3. Funding to mobilize stakeholder engagement sessions should also be borne by stakeholders to ensure fair and balanced sharing of responsibility and financial burden across the boards.
4. Funding should also be provided for participants from member states to ensure inclusive participation.
5. Submissions by stakeholders should focus on exploring creative and innovative solutions rather than in form of statements or demand lists. We are all in this together and only together we can address this huge task presented before us.
6. Malaysia also requests for the secretariat to provide clarity on how we could incorporate stakeholder input into the negotiations. Currently, we see it just as information sharing. What we need at this time is a solution in implementing the instrument and addressing the issue.
7. Lastly Chair, Malaysia proposes to explore a more targeted and thematic-based engagement through regional-based stakeholder engagement sessions. This would provide deeper understanding in local context. This is instrumental for the negotiations, as the instrument must take into account national circumstances and capabilities. Thank you Chair.

MALAYSIA INTERVENTION FOR SUB-ITEMS UNDER AGENDA ITEM 4

(2 DECEMBER 2022)

5 OTHER MATTERS (DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT SESSION OF THE INC)

Thank you Chair.

1. Firstly, Malaysia would like to express our gratitude to the government and the people of Uruguay for the successful hosting of INC1 in the beautiful Punta del Este.
2. We have come to the final day of INC1, where we have shared positions, perspectives and concerns while accumulating vast amount of information between parties and non-parties stakeholders in the past few days. and, there is still much left to be done as we advance to INC2 next year.
3. Moving forward chair, Malaysia aligns our view with Japan on behalf of Asia Pacific region in expressing our gratitude to France for hosting the upcoming INC2 in May 2023 and also wishes to support Kenya, Canada and The Republic of Korea to host the INC3,4 and 5.

Finally, Malaysia would like to extend its gratitude to the Chair as well as the secretariat for their tireless works during the INC1 and in preparation for the upcoming INC2.

Thank you Chair.