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.