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 though 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.