

Intergovernmental Negotiating Body First Session

28 November 2022, Punta Del Este

Statement of Montenegro, Item 4

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

I would like to thank Government of Uruguay for hosting the INC1 and the UNEP for organizing the meeting in Punta del Este. Let me also congratulate Jyoti Mathur-Filipp on the appointment as Executive Secretary of the INC Secretariat. We believe that your endeavors will significantly contribute and lead us to the successful negotiations. Montenegro aligns with the statement of the representative of the Czech Republic, on behalf of the EU.

Plastic pollution represents a serious environmental global challenge that negatively affects biodiversity, ecosystems, livelihoods, and economies. My delegation believes that we have to seize the momentum, built at UNEA 5.2. and create an ambitious legally binding treaty, that will address the full life cycle of plastics. Please also allow me to highlight the importance of the work started already at UNEA-2, which Montenegro supported from the very beginning, and which is materializing into the development of the legal instrument now.

We believe that the negotiation process should be evidence-based, including socioeconomic assessments, inter alia, on raw materials, sources of production, production processes, alternative components, product design, consumption patterns, trade, transboundary movements of plastic wastes and environmentally sound waste management. Furthermore, the new treaty should adequately balance the environmental, economic, and social dimensions of the challenge before us, reflecting and anchoring concepts enshrined in the 2030 Agenda.

For the success of the new treaty in today's interconnected world, the effective participation of all stakeholders is crucial. It is clear that governments cannot solve the challenge alone, and we believe that the process of creation of the treaty should be inclusive and transparent, and with the meaningful participation of stakeholders.

We recognize that 2024 is an ambitious timeframe for finalizing the international instrument. In order to achieve a practical and implementable agreement, but also an ambitious one, it is crucial to ensure adequate means of implementation concerning financial resources, technical assistance, including sharing and co-development of new technologies, as well as capacity-building mechanisms aimed at developing countries.

We would like to underline that human rights and the environment are fundamentally intertwined: a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment is essential for the enjoyment of our human rights. In July 2022, the UNGA declared that everyone on the planet has a right to a healthy environment, and states should implement their commitments and scale up their efforts through the treaty.

Mr. Chair,

We have the opportunity to create a new treaty that can change habits and practice we have established on our way to solving the triple planetary crisis. By exercising a genuine multilateral approach, we can use lessons learned from other MEAs and innovate, and create a strong plastic treaty until 2024.

I thank you.