



PACIFIC SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

UNITED NATIONS MEMBER STATES

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General Statement delivered by Samoa on behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States at the First Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution, including in the Marine Environment

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Time Limit: 5 minutes

Mr. President,

It's an honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the fourteen Pacific Small Island Developing States and we align ourselves with the statement made by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of AOSIS and Japan on behalf of the Asia Pacific Group.

We congratulate you Mr. Chairman on your successful election. We offer you our full support as you guide us through the process to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. I also take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to the government and people of Uruguay for welcoming us all to this beautiful city of Punta del Este. Starting this utmost important process in such beautiful scenery is certainly cause for great hope. Our sincere gratitude to UNEP and the INC secretariat in particular for their work in bringing this meeting together.

Mr. President - PSIDS are ocean custodians. Our cultures and ways of life make protection and preservation of our natural environment a paramount value. For us, this is a moral duty. We have learned from generations past that in order to continue enjoying the benefits of our natural world, we must care for it and protect it to ensure they provide for us and our future generations.

Unfortunately, there are many threats undermining our custodianship. While climate change remains the greatest threat to our survival and livelihoods, plastic pollution is yet another menace to our present and future. As a region, we contribute as little as 1.3% of global plastic pollution, however, we are grossly and disproportionately affected by its impacts on our land and in our ocean.

To address an issue of such magnitude, we need an ambitious instrument that covers the full lifecycle of plastics and implements the aspiration of **'sustainable' production and consumption** of plastics which we all espouse. The future instrument must provide for

mandatory obligations for all, be inclusive, and equitable, and provide for adequate means to implement the ambitious provisions we will all agree on, in particular for small island developing states.

Multi-Stakeholder Approaches

We need global solidarity to address plastic pollution and the effective engagement of all stakeholders, from producers to vulnerable communities. This must be the strategic guiding principle for creating a holistic and effective solution to the plastic pollution crisis.

Education is a key component of any strategy to end plastic pollution. We should promote alternatives to plastics such as using traditional and local products thereby helping to turn off the tap. We support the use of the best available science and scientific information complemented by traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities with their free, prior and informed consent as an integral part of ending the plastic pollution crisis.

In the Pacific we are truly at the forefront of the triple emergency threat presented by the convergence of climate change, loss of biodiversity and plastic pollution and we call on all members to commit to an agreement on an ambitious, legally binding global agreement covering the whole life cycle of plastics.

I thank you.