

**Written submission by the Republic of Korea**  
**on the work of the intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC)**  
**to develop an international instrument on plastic pollution,**  
**including in the marine environment**

**15 July 2022**

**I. High-priority topics of discussion for INC meetings**

The Republic of Korea would like to propose that the INC start discussions on key fundamental issues on which many other elements will depend, from the outset of the INC-1 meeting and focus on them during the meeting. The key fundamental issues will include:

- Scope
- Objectives
- Definitions
- Structure (i.e. an instrument supplemented by annexes that might provide additional details but still form an integral part of the instrument, or a framework agreement with separate protocols, etc)

This will allow us to avoid unnecessary situations where we need to revisit fundamental elements in the later stages of the negotiation process.

**II. Preparation of documentation for INC-1**

The Republic of Korea would like to provide comments on the following documentation items proposed by the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) for the INC-1 meeting as specified in the final outcome summary of the OEWG.

*(6) An overview of information 'to promote cooperation and coordination with relevant regional and international conventions, instruments and organizations, while recognizing their respective mandates, avoid duplication and promoting complementarity of action' (UNEA resolution 5/14 paragraph 3(k))*

The Republic of Korea would like to recommend the UNEP Secretariat to consider the ongoing work under the WTO Informal Dialogue on Plastics Pollutions (IDP) and share its plan to ensure the work of the INC could create synergies in addressing plastic pollution. We hope that the INC explores a comprehensive approach on the value chain and life cycle of plastics, and it recognizes the importance of trade in the full life cycle of plastics. The WTO IDP, currently consisting of 71 WTO Members representing 75% of plastics trade, aims to identify opportunities within the rules and mechanisms of the WTO to contribute to the global efforts to combat plastics pollution and to provide support in other relevant fora.

*(9) Listing of existing information for policy makers, building on UNEP/PP/OEWG/1/INF/3*

In addition to the list of information sources relevant to paragraphs 3 and 4 of UNEA resolutions 5/14 in UNEP/PP/OEWG/1/INF/3, the Republic of Korea would like to include the following list of policy reports from the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP), which is officially sponsored by various UN organizations including UNEP, on plastic pollution, especially in marine environment.

- Sea-based sources of marine litter (No. 108)
- Proceedings of the GESAMP International Workshop on Assessing the Risks Associated with Plastics and Microplastics in the Marine Environment (No. 103)
- Guidelines for the Monitoring and Assessment of Plastic Litter in the Ocean (No. 99)
- Sources, Fate and Effects of Microplastics in the Marine Environment (No. 93 & 90)

### **III. Preparation of the Multi-stakeholder Forum**

As there are various sources of plastic pollution, we need to have discussions on each specific source in a certain environment. This would include particular strategies for sea-based sources of marine plastic litter, such as ghost fishing gears, aquaculture equipment, and waste from shipping, *inter alia*. In this regard, the agenda of the Multi-stakeholder Forum needs to include plastic pollutions in the marine environment as a specific topic.

The Republic of Korea suggests a summary of the Forum be prepared by the Secretariat and reported to the INC on the first day of the meeting. We believe that information or insights from the Forum need to be considered and reflected during the negotiation process. In order to ensure that, negotiators should be informed of the observations of the Forum in a timely manner. /end/