

Dear Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen!

First of all, I would like to thank the Government and the people of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay for organizing and hosting this large-scale event.

The Russian Federation welcomes the decision of the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 5.2) enshrined in its Resolution 5/14 of March 2nd 2022, on convening the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. We consider it timely to organize and hold the first meeting of the INC.

The destructive consequences of plastic pollution for the environmental, social and economic components of sustainable development have been scientifically proved. The humanity has reached the point, when finding solution for this issue requires a deeper and broader cooperation between states, international and environmental organizations, private industries and the civil society.

Let me emphasize just a few key indicators. To date, the products of plastic degradation account for up to 80% of the terrestrial and up to 90% of marine litter. Decomposing for centuries, they lead to the gradual and inevitable loss by the ecosystems of their ability of self-purification and maintaining the balance. According to the Russian Academy of Sciences, the humankind has already produced around 8,5 billion tonnes of plastic waste, and this figure continues to grow.

The products of plastic splitting poison the world's ocean ecosystems, and in some cases are a threat to human health.

It is important to mention that currently the humanity applies a sectoral approach to this problem. For example, we have a number of international legal instruments adopted and implemented by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and dealing with plastic pollution in the marine environment. However, we believe that a comprehensive approach is needed and therefore we support the efforts of the international community to develop a universal international legal instrument that would allow countries to gradually shift through joint efforts to a circular economy.

In this regard, the Russian Federation pays great attention to the work of the INC and is ready to actively participate in this process.

We proceed from the fact that the new document should be well-balanced and should take into consideration the interests and capacity of various individual states, providing the latter with maximum flexibility in defining their national indicators and forms of reporting.

We hope that the negotiations will be held in a constructive manner and will not be politicized.

Уважаемый господин Председатель, уважаемые члены делегаций, дамы и господа!

Прежде всего, хотел бы поблагодарить Правительство Восточной Республики Уругвай за организацию и проведение такого масштабного мероприятия.

Российская Федерация приветствует решение возобновленной пятой сессии Ассамблеи ООН по окружающей среде (UNEA 5.2), закреплённое в её резолюции 5/14 от 2 марта 2022 г. о созыве Межправительственного переговорного комитета для разработки нового юридически обязательного соглашения по борьбе с загрязнением пластмассами, в том числе в морской среде.

Считаем своевременными организацию и проведение первого заседания МПК.

Разрушительные последствия загрязнения пластиком для экологического, социального и экономического компонентов устойчивого развития научно подтверждены. Человечество подошло к той черте, когда решение данного вопроса требует углублённого и более масштабного взаимодействия между государствами, международными и природоохранными организациями, частным бизнесом и институтами гражданского общества.

Отмечу лишь несколько ключевых показателей. На сегодняшний день, продукты расщепления пластика составляют до 80% наземного и 90% морского мусора. Разлагаясь столетиями, они приводят к постепенной и неизбежной потере экосистемами способности к самоочищению и утрате ими равновесия. По данным Российской академии наук, человечество уже произвело около 8,5 млрд. тонн пластиковых отходов, и эта цифра продолжает расти.

Продукты расщепления пластика отравляют экосистему Мирового океана и в некоторых случаях вредят здоровью человека.

Необходимо отметить, что в настоящее время человечество пользуется секторальными подходами к решению данной проблемы - например, мы имеем ряд международно-правовых инструментов, разработанных и применяемых в рамках Международной морской организации (ИМО) и относящихся к борьбе с пластиковым загрязнением в морских пространствах. Однако мы считаем необходимым всеобъемлющий подход и поддерживаем усилия международного сообщества по разработке универсального международно-правового инструмента, который позволил бы государствам постепенно, совместными усилиями, переключиться на рельсы экономики замкнутого цикла.

В этой связи Российская Федерация придаёт большое значение работе МПК и готова активно участвовать в этом процессе.

Мы исходим из того, что новый документ должен быть сбалансированным и в максимальной степени учитывать интересы и возможности разных государств, предоставляя последним максимальную гибкость в определении национальных показателей и форм отчётности.

Рассчитываем, что переговоры пройдут в конструктивном ключе и не будут политизированы.

Благодарю за внимание!

Тезисы для возможного озвучивания в ходе сессии межправкомитета

28.11.2022 – 02.12.2022

спасибо господин председатель!

ПРОШУ ПРОЩЕНИЕ, ЧТО ЗАПРОСИЛИ СЛОВО С ОПОЗДАНИЕМ

Хотели бы отметить, что документ, по нашему мнению, должен быть направлен не на борьбу с пластиком, а на борьбу с загрязнением пластиком, основываясь на осознанном потреблении, максимальном вовлечении пластиковых отходов во вторичный оборот. Стимулирующие механизмы использования отходов должны быть такими, чтобы повторное использование стало выгодно. При этом необходимо учитывать ограничения, установленные в рамках Стокгольмской конвенции.

в будущей конвенции должен быть заложен принцип снижения отходообразования. Необходимо внедрение экомтики замкнутого цикла и механизма ответственности производителей.

Должен быть выдержан баланс между экологическими вопросами и необходимостью обеспечения устойчивого социально-экономического развития.

С целью снижения загрязнения окружающей среды важно учесть механизмы по исключению захоронения в элементах окружающей среды пластиковых отходов. В Российской Федерации такой запрет введен на законодательном уровне. Призываем другие страны последовать нашему примеру.

Основная задача стимулировать компании переводить свое производство на вторичное использование пластика и развитие технологий его переработки.

- Необходимо учитывать региональные особенности и экономическую структуру конкретной страны при создании стратегии борьбы с загрязнением пластиком.
- Переход на альтернативы должны быть экологически безопасными и экономически выгодными
- Необходим свободный и справедливый доступ к технологиям для обеспечения развития переработки пластиковых отходов. Необходима поддержка бизнесу, прежде всего, в развивающихся странах
- невсегда пластиковые альтернативы и заменители способны в полной мере заменить пластиковые полимеры без потери их экономических или экологических свойств. Поэтому еще раз подчеркиваем необходимость фокусирования на создании системы эффективного обращения с пластиковыми отходами и переработки пластика.

Важен научно обоснованный подход в оценочных решениях, в тч в части в ходе разработки методологического аппарата по оценке степени загрязнения микропластиком окружающей среды

Поддерживаем создание рабочих групп в межсессионный период по разработке основных разделов документа

**Statement by the Russian Delegation in realization of the Right of reply
to the EU, USA and Ukraine**

at the 1st session of the Plastic INC, Punta del Este 29/11/2022

Our delegation has taken the floor in order to respond to the yesterday's and today's allegations against Russia made by the representatives of the USA on behalf of JUSCANS, EU and Ukraine.

Mr.Chairman, please, don't interrupt me if it takes longer than three minutes, considering that I have three rights of reply to three interventions which totals to nine minutes.

Moreover, Mr.Chairman, we have noted that you have given the Ukranian delegate the possibility to reproduce his statement twice , each exceeding three minutes . This is a violation of the norms of conducting buiseness. We didn't raise the point of order for the second time in this regard but we hope that such practice will be stopped in our forthcoming deliberations .

Mr.Chairman,

First of all, I would like to stress that international meetings on environmental matters are not the right place to discuss current geopolitical situation and armed conflicts. In accordance to the UN Charter this is a prerogative of the Security Council.

Most of the delegations have come long way to Urugway to negotiate new environmental agreement on combating global plastic polution and not to witness a political show which has nothing to do with the agenda of the First Session of the INC.

It is a principal position of my country that international environmental cooperation should be free of politics. Current conflict in Ukraine is not the only one that had happened in more than 50 years of UNEP's history. And I am afraid it is not the last. All conflicts come to end with a peace settlement. The conflict in Ukraine will also be over. But our common work on new environmental agreement on combating global plastic pollution is aimed at wellbeing of the Mother Nature and many new human generations which will come after us. We simply have no right to jeopardize it!

I would like to call on all delegations to note that it was not the Russian delegation that has started the political discussion at this meeting. Now we are simply exercising our right to reply.

First of all, we have to acknowledge the erosion of the multilateral environmental process for the sake of political interests of Western countries and the Kiev Regime.

We believe that countries like the US, their NATO and JUSCANS allies simply do not have the moral right to comment on what is happening now when Russia stood up to help the people of Ukraine to liberate from the ultranationalist regime which came to power as a result of the unconstitutional coup d'etat in Kiev in February 2014 with the active support from the USA and their EU NATO member allies. What we witness in Ukraine now is the direct result of their illegal interference in the domestic affairs of Ukraine.

If the USA and their NATO allies in reality want to stop the conflict they must stop pumping the Kiev regime with arms and ammunition, which simply prolongs the conflict and multiplies the suffering of the civilian population.

In response to the statement of the US delegation I can reproduce a very long list of illegal, unprovoked and unjustified aggressions of the US and their NATO allies starting from the war in Korea up to the war in Syria. And in between there were more than 30 countries including Vietnam, Yugoslavia, Iraq, Lybia and many others. Millions of lives have been lost during these acts of aggression. But it's fine with the US as long as it makes the US dollar stronger at the international market.

All these countries are thousands of kilometers away from the US borders, but they were labeled as threat to the US national security as an excuse for aggression.

Russia has its legitimate interests in neighbouring Ukraine. There are millions of Russians living in this country. All what Russia wanted in this country is peace, respect for the legitimate rights of the Russian-speaking population and a neutral military status of Ukraine. But all our attempts to reach these goals by diplomatic means have failed.

The armed conflict in Ukraine has started not 9 months back, as many believe, but almost nine years ago. Starting from February 2014 the Kiev Regime was pursuing the policy of ethnic cleansing against Russians living in Southern and Eastern parts of the country. Since 2014 more than 5 million of Russian-speaking people have immigrated to Russia in order to escape oppression on the ethnicity basis. More than 14 thousand - and among them 152 children - were killed by the Ukrainian armed forces in the Donbass region alone. Many more people who could not agree with the policy of the Kiev ultranationalist regime disappeared without any traces.

In these circumstances Russia had no other choice but to start the Special military operation to protect Russian-speaking population and to demilitarize the Kiev regime.

As for the general and plastic pollution on the territory of Ukraine we have to say the following. On the liberated territories of Lugansk, Donetsk, Zaporozhie and Kherson regions which have decided to join their historic motherland - Russia - as a result of referendums in September this year, there was no system of secure general treatment of waste at all, not to mention plastic. All waste was simply accumulated at the open dump sites without any treatment and separation. Only now, when these territories have been liberated, along with the reconstruction of civilian infrastructure, Russia has started to introducing and building systems of separate collection of waste and treating plastic waste accordingly. For example, in the liberated city of Mariupol alone we have supplied 88 garbage trucks and more than 9 thousand garbage containers and other special machines to collect and treat waste accordingly, with one of the aims being separating and extracting plastic for recycling.

And to conclude, Mr.Chairman, one more time I would like to ask all involved delegations to stop using our meeting as a venue for political accusations which have nothing to do with the agenda ahead of us.

Reply to the second statement of the Delegation of Ukraine

Once again the delegation of Ukraine is trying to futher politicize the work of our meeting by accusing us of doing this. We call upon all delegations present here today to take note that it was not us who have started the political discuss. We were simply replying to false accusations.

And we have to do it again.

All the unfortunate events happening now in Ukraine are the direct outcome of barbarian actions of the Kiev regime which took place in the former Eastern and Southern part of Ukraine during the last nine years. One more time I have to underline that the current Kiev regime came to power as a result of illegal violent coup d'etat in February 2014 with the direct support of the USA and some EU member-states.

Before accusing us we recommend the representatives of Ukraine to look at the actions of the Kiev regime accountable for grave acts of massive oppression if not genocide against Russian-speaking population.

Russia is simply responding to the criminal actions of the Kiev ultra-nationalist regime. Let me remind that one of the first barbaric acts of the supporters of the regime was burning alive more than 40 Russian-speaking civilians in the city of Odessa on May 2, 2014 who participated in a peaceful demonstration against overthrow of the legitimate authority in the country. Nobody was held accountable for this barbaric act by the Kiev regime despite the fact the identities of the culprits were well known.

Let me assure you that all goals of the Special military operation are going to be fulfilled. And never again Ukraine is going to become a breeding ground for ultranationalist ideology.

And at the end of my intervention once again I would like to call on the delegations involved in this exchange of views to stop politicizing the session and concentrate on the substantive matters which we have to discuss during this week.

Thank you Mr.Chairman!