

## **Singapore's National Statement for INC-1**

- Chair, distinguished delegates and colleagues,
- First, Singapore would like to thank the Government of Uruguay for your kind hospitality and smooth logistics arrangements in hosting this meeting. We would also like to thank the INC Secretariat for the heavy lifting of preparing for this meeting.
- We have an ambitious timeline ahead of us for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC). Given the short timeframe for us to develop the legally binding international instrument, it is important that INC-1 lays a strong foundation and provides sufficient momentum to ensure productive negotiations over the next two years.
- Singapore stands ready to participate actively in the INC and to work with all Member States towards a constructive collective outcome. We also wish to express our alignment with the regional statements delivered by the Asia Pacific Group (APG) and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
- The instrument needs to be ambitious in galvanising global action and international cooperation to address plastic pollution, particularly in the marine environment. Plastic pollution is a multi-faceted issue, and addressing it will require a collective and holistic response. At the same time, we need to acknowledge the diverse circumstances across different regions and countries; and recognise that effective solutions for one context may not apply to another. To this end, the instrument needs to be designed in a way that facilitates universal participation from all countries, while providing the space for countries to develop and put in place appropriate measures relevant to their national contexts.
- The instrument should thus take a pragmatic approach to addressing plastic pollution. We should acknowledge that plastic, as a material, can continue to play a useful role for economies and societies, given its qualities and characteristics. The question at hand is how, together, we can make sure that it is used responsibly, without damaging our living

environments. The instrument should thus promote actions and approaches that enhance the proper management of plastic waste, as well as enhance the recyclability and circularity of plastics. We should also bear in mind the need for sustainable alternatives that do not create new environmental problems.

- While we focus on plastic pollution on land, it is also important that the instrument places emphasis on addressing the marine aspect. Plastic pollution in the marine environment is transboundary in nature and requires collective action to address. Even more so than in the land environment. This is why we believe that the development of comprehensive waste management approaches is fundamentally crucial for the instrument to preventing the leakage of plastic waste into the environment.
- Given its impact, the instrument will need to provide time for economies and societies to adjust. This also gives time for industry to develop alternatives and offer better solutions.
- Once again, Singapore looks forward to contributing actively at the INC and to developing a global instrument that is universal, practical and substantial in addressing the important issue of plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. Thank you.