

**FIRST MEETING OF THE AD HOC OPEN ENDED EXPERT GROUP ESTABLISHED UNDER UNEP,  
29 – 31 MAY 2018, NAIROBI**

**AGENDA ITEM 4 ON BARRIERS TO COMBATING MARINE LITTER AND MICROPLASTICS,  
INCLUDING CHALLENGES RELATED TO RESOURCE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

**Singapore's Comments**

- Thank you Madam co-chair. We would like to join others to congratulate the co-chairs on your election. We also thank the Secretariat for preparing the meeting documents, which we think is helpful in guiding the discussions.
- We all agree that marine litter and microplastics is a global environmental problem and is multi-faceted. Since morning, we have heard comments about the various barriers in addressing marine litter and microplastics, including a non-exhaustive list of 80 pointers drawn up by the Secretariat.
- To add value to the discussions, it is important to first know where we are heading as a global community. Canada's proposal to identify key barriers and priorities is therefore a useful one to consider as a starting point.
- However, to know where we are heading, we need to first form a common understanding of the task at hand. Hence, it is important that the process of identifying key barriers and priorities is grounded in science. We need to enhance scientific research to better understand the scale of the problem and impact of marine litter and microplastics, to support policy and decision-making. While there is some existing literature, we have thus far today that current available scientific information on marine litter and microplastics is patchy and insufficient. This is also largely due to the lack of harmonized standards of monitoring and assessment of data, which issue has been raised by many member states.
- In short, it is important to first get our fundamentals right. Only then, we will be able to identify suitable solutions collectively and address marine litter and microplastics as a global community. Thank you.