First session of the Inter-Governmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution (INC 1)

Stakeholder participation and engagement

Punta del Este (Uruguay) – 30 November 2022

Thank you Mr. Chair

Switzerland very much values the engagement, expertise and inputs from stakeholders. We cannot elaborate an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution without the engagement and involvement of civil society, scientists, and the private sector. Early and meaningful engagement is therefore essential. We also welcome the coalitions that are emerging from business, scientists and the civil society that are supportive of an ambitious treaty with a strong global regulatory framework.

We are interested in finding the best ways to support a dialogue and to benefit from their inputs. One way to catalyse and mobilise expertise in a concrete and targeted manner – is to receive written inputs to inform the negotiations. This is why my delegation is very supportive of the elaboration of a document that would contain options for obligations and control measures across the full life cycle of plastics that would be based not only on inputs from Member States but also from stakeholders.

We also believe that the intersessional period is a good moment to allow for exchanges in a variety of format. Dialogues during this time has the advantages to allow Member States to digest and integrate relevant information in their position for relevant INCs.

As we move into treaty making mode – it would also be of great interest to my delegation to see how best to ensure that stakeholders, in particular the private sector, could support the implementation of the treaty. The Multistakeholder Action Agenda is one of the ways and we are interested in discussing its modalities as we move into the negotiations of the treaty.

And finally, let’s not forget that we have an ambitious time frame. The priority is to allow for efficient negotiations. They are many other forums and voluntary initiatives and we should avoid creating duplication or a burdensome process in the context of the INC process.

I thank you.