

Dear madam chair,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honor to take the floor on behalf of Sweden

Firstly, we would like to thank the Government of Thailand for warmly welcoming us in this beautiful city of Bangkok.

As we all know, there is an urgent need for action on plastic pollution. This has been stressed since the first UNEA in 2014, in subsequent marine litter resolutions and expert group meetings. SE would like to reiterate the importance of international cooperation to deliver concrete solutions to the global problem of marine plastic littering and pollution of microplastics. Plastic pollution is a global issue; therefore, we need to act at **all levels**.

Currently, there is no international holistic agreement which addresses the **whole** life-cycle of plastic. SE would like to recall its written submission at the second expert group meeting, of an overarching new global architecture for combatting marine plastic litter and microplastics, as an option, that has great potential to contribute to solving the global problem, to achieve a coherent solution and should be considered in this group. We invite and warmly welcome you to help shape this as one of the concrete options to be considered by UNEA5.

SE would also like to recall and welcome the success in amending the Basel Convention in April to better control export of unsorted and problematic plastic waste. However even though this is a significant step towards combatting plastic pollution, we need to continue to identify and analyse further solutions to solve this global issue.

Therefore, SE urges that we use these coming days and upcoming expert group meetings for constructive discussions and deliver concrete options and solutions, to move this global issue forward.

Thank you.