



**General Statement of Thailand
at the first session of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee
on the development of international legally binding instrument on Plastic Pollution,
including the marine environment (INC-1)
28 November 2022, Punta del Este, Uruguay**

Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

Good Afternoon, Buenas Tardes, SAWASDEE Ka,

Mr. Chair, Excellencies and Distinguished Colleagues,

At the outset, Thailand would like to congratulate you, Mr. Chair, upon your election. With your leadership, the INC meetings ahead will be guided in the remarkable way. Next, we wish to express our sincere appreciation to the Government and People of Uruguay for their warm hospitality. Our profound gratitude is also extended to the INC Plastic Secretariat for their hard efforts in any settings to make this first session of INC happen in an effective manner.

Thailand aligns itself with the Statement made by Jordan on behalf of Asia Pacific Group and would like to share our expectations on substantive issues in the instrument as follows:

First, on the structure of the instrument, Thailand prefers the format of a specific convention containing core and standard provisions plus necessary technical information and substantive annexes.

Second, Thailand supports the proposed clustering of elements under the instrument identified in paragraphs 3 and 4 of UNEA resolution 5/14 in the document “UNEP/PP/INC.1/5” to be used in designing its most appropriate architecture. Its core provisions should cover all stages of plastic lifecycle aligning with waste management hierarchy, for example at upstream to address both design and production phases, at midstream to address both distribution and consumption phases and at downstream to address the post consumption phase. Furthermore, additional prescriptive measures to prevent and control unintentional leakages of plastic pollution, in particular micro/nano-plastics, into the environment from each stage should be included.

Third, key points to be considered in designing the instrument could be highlighted as follows:

-Formulating an objective or objectives, we should clearly and concisely underscore the goal and result of eliminating plastic pollution which is to protect human health and environment impacts from plastic pollution through the entire plastic lifecycle by minimizing its production, consumption and utilization as necessary.

-Prescribing key glossary terms, it should take into account the concept of “essential use” as with other MEAs, among others, including the terms of “Plastic” “Plastic Pollution” “Problematic Plastic” “Life Cycle Approach” and “Life Cycle Assessment”, etc.

-Regarding problematic plastics including the use of additives in plastics, plastic products in which may obstruct the sustainable recycling or circularity and may easily degrade as micro/nano-plastics to the environment, in order to address this issue properly, we have to think carefully—what would be the best measures. Among others, prioritizing and formulating lists of problematic plastics; or of plastics containing highly hazardous additives; or of hazardous additives, being phased out or restricted should be one solution based on scientific evidences, concrete criteria and proper mechanism—those can be prescribed in the form of annexes. Moreover, another solution in avoiding problematic plastics can be dealt with technical recommendations on the use of certain plastic types in their proper applications.

-Synergies among relevant regional and international conventions, instruments and organizations are needed to be elaborated into the means of implementation.

-Having considered financial considerations, one single form or solution may not sufficient to support the implementation by member states. Integrated solutions, comprising of existing or innovative financing options should be considered. So that member states can apply one or more options, that suit with their context, circumstances and capabilities.

-Reviewing and recategorizing recyclable thermoplastic symbols, especially the number 7 which includes some of those that can not be recycled or difficult to recycle, for example ABS containing hazard flame retardants, should be figured out as well.

Mr. Chair, Excellencies and Distinguished colleagues,

Last but not least, Thailand pledges our best efforts to collect developing an ambitious, but practical instrument and wishes this meeting will collect thoughts, ideas, inputs and views from relevant stakeholders to further develop this very important instrument at next sessions.

Thank you very much.