



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.

Thailand's intervention on our views on the formulation of the objective and scope of the instrument

Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Good morning and SAWASDEE Ka.

Thailand appreciates the work done by Secretariat on documents beforehand which is valuably facilitating our negotiation.

In terms of objective and scope of the instrument, Thailand views of that the objective of the instrument must clearly and concisely convey the goal and result of eliminating plastic pollution, in accordance to the UNEA 5/14 resolution. Our proposal can be read as follows: to end the plastic pollution in order to ultimately protect the human health and environmental impacts from plastic pollution arising through their entire life cycle.

Aligning with the UNEA resolution 5/14, the scope of instrument should definitely consider to cover life cycle of plastic, while allow for both binding and voluntary approaches, taking into account national circumstances and capabilities. The scope should include the ultimate goal as well as spell out key directions of roadmap to be taken to achieve the ultimate goal in order to end plastic pollution in 2040. It should as much as possible close the loop of the toxic free plastic circularity. However, determination of the core measures should be carefully considered to address various issues involved from upstream to downstream and to also any new problems that may arise in the future.

Thank you very much, KOB KHUN Ka.

Prepared by the Pollution Control Department, Thailand

30 November 2022

Thailand's Intervention on our views of the Structure Option and Potential Elements of the Instrument

Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

Regarding the structure of the instrument, the most preferable option of Thailand is a format of specific convention plus annexes. The convention should contain core and standard provisions. While annexes may include necessary scientific and technical information and substantives, as well as procedural and administrative matters.

Thailand would like to highlight that core provisions of the instrument should address all stages of plastic lifecycle aligning with precautionary principle, LCA, waste management hierarchy, EPR which include, but not limited to, the followings.

At the upstream, the provisions to set up the harmonized product standards including design for toxic free and design for friendly recycling and recovery allowing more circularity of plastic and get rid of hazardous parts or constituents out of the value chain, for example of criteria, design mono material, colorless, toxic free. Moreover, the provisions to address the production phase including the minimization of virgin plastic but maximization of the recyclable plastic with restriction on or not allow using/adding hazardous chemicals/additives or the restriction policy should be applied; the proven hazardous chemicals aside the existing MEAs tools as well as the problematic plastic in particular a kind of ease degradable as micro/nano-plastics or prone to leakage into the environment should be applied by the ban policy; and the instrument should include the opportunity for encourage the environmentally and innovative alternatives.

At midstream, the voluntary approaches may be introduced and the obligations borne by the member states through the national action plan to address the excessive uses of plastic/plastic packaging during both distribution and consumption phases.

At downstream, provisions comprise of a set of strategic solutions to address the post consumption phase and unintentional releases/leakage to the environment should be introduced for example BAT/BEP as well as technical guidelines in waste management.

Thank you very much.

**Thailand's intervention on
our views for key considerations in supporting the monitoring and evaluation of
progress in and effectiveness of implementation as well as national reporting**

Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

Good morning and SAWASDEE KA, every distinguished colleague,

In order to ensure the effective, measurable and comparable progress of the implementation of this instrument, Thailand views that the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and the national reporting system should include all of the followings:

1. A global monitoring programme and network of plastic pollution that take into account national and regional efforts and harmonized methodologies. In addition, technical guideline to set up such monitoring system should be provided to support member countries, especially developing countries, in ensuring the efficient and timely operation of such system at the national level.
2. An online national reporting system which comprises notational data related to plastic pollution, including the periodical state of plastic pollution (probably annual, biannual, etc.) which, at least, comprises of plastics or plastic waste trade flows, material flow and balance of plastics (if any), as well as an action plan which comprises key activities, initiatives, projects, or programmes, relevant legislation and regulations, and any other applicable tools or instruments to address plastic pollution.
3. The effectiveness evaluation framework and scheme to measure the progress and efficiency of the instrument at all levels, national, regional and global levels.

Furthermore, to support the effective implementation of member countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economic in transition, the global knowledge hub on plastic pollution mitigation and management can help taking stock of best practices from member states, such as models of economic incentives or taxation, legislation options, national action plans, applicable plastic waste management scheme, etc.

In conclusion, the proposal as mentioned should be built upon the concrete mechanism on technical and financial assistances as well as capacity building programme, ensuring the achievement has been met.

Thank you very much, KOB KHUN KA.

*Pollution Control Department, MNRE, Thailand
On 1 December 2022*

Thailand's intervention on our views related to other aspects, including scientific and technical cooperation and coordination, research and awareness raising.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

Regarding scientific and technical cooperation and coordination, research and awareness raising, Thailand recognizes the importance and necessity of best available scientific and technical knowledge and know-how as well as local knowledge and wisdom, in particular from indigenous peoples, in addressing the plastic pollution. Those are required the cooperation and coordination among Member States and all stakeholders including academic and research institutes, IGOs, NGOs, and also synergies between relevant existing MEAs and the new setting of SPP on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution to explore solutions and findings in supporting the negotiation and implementation processes.

Among other things, It should be considered to include mechanisms in the instrument in which make available further development of innovations and researches in minimizing problematic plastic production and consumption, including micro/nano-plastics and unintentional toxic releases into the environment as well as in exploring available and sustainable alternatives, on basis of relevant scientific knowledge and evidences, socio-economical and practical possibilities, with aims to reduce barriers to achieve the sustainable circularity of plastics and overcome intensive burdens to our global spheres. These mechanisms need to strengthen the aforementioned cooperation and coordination.

Thank you very much.

Prepared by the Pollution Control Department, MNRE, Thailand

On 1 December 2022

Thailand's intervention on our support to
the proposed timetable for the intergovernmental negotiation committee process

Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

Thailand sincerely thanks the Secretariat for the proposed timetable for the intergovernmental negotiation committee process. We would also like to welcome all offers to host the future INC sessions.

In particular, Thailand is fully and strongly support the Republic of Korea to host the 5th session of INC.

Thank you and KOB KHUN ka.

*Prepared by Pollution Control Department, MNRE, Thailand
On 2 December 2022*

Thailand's intervention on our views
for sequencing and recommended further work to be undertaken

Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

Thailand would also like to echo guidances on priorities and possible way forward proposed by the European Union and distinguished delegations of Norway and Japan, yesterday and Switzerland today.

Thailand wishes to suggest to wrap up outcomes of the 1st session of INC and to advance the works for the 2nd session of INC. Thailand views that it is important to have in-depth synthesis and digestion of intensive and inclusive information, views, inputs, and guidances, in which have been either expressed by in-session physically and virtually participants or contained in pre-session written submissions from Member States and multi-stakeholders in order to compile potential elements to be used to formulate substantives of the instrument's text.

We all experienced the time constraint during the negotiation in this INC-1, and foresee that the intersessional work is needed, including, but not limited to, informal focus group meetings, regional discussions and multi-stakeholders consultations, to take stock in advance of key provisions and substantive elements to be shaped and elaborated in pre-session documents prepared by the Secretariat in accordance with further proposed agenda items of the next INC meeting other than inputs from written submissions just suggested by the informal group. In the INC-2, its potential agenda items would include the consideration of proposals on structure and potential key provisions. Then, the contact groups to cluster their works aligning with such proposed agenda items should be established at the 2nd INC.

Thank you very much.

*Prepared by Pollution Control Department, MNRE, Thailand
On 2 December 2022*

Thailand's intervention on our views
for considerations of stakeholder participation and action

Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

Thailand recognizes the worthwhile of the engagement and action of stakeholders to concur a part of negotiation and implementation processes in the meaningful manner. However, many multi-stakeholders and multi-sectors include along the plastic value chain. They also have their own perspectives, divergent in nature, and perhaps having conflict in their interests. The question is how to maximize those valuable and beneficial varieties, anticipating with proper conflict resolution.

Therefore, In setting the constructive participation and action of those respective stakeholders in the instrument, the crystal clear modality should be strategized by taking into account principles of inclusiveness, transparency, responsiveness, accountability and respect for rights as well as providing their opportunity and capacity to participate and share their inputs and expertise as well as take actions effectively, equitably, responsively and accountability through the process.

Thank you very much.

*Prepared by Pollution Control Department, MNRE, Thailand
On 1 December 2022*