

Statement by ES at INC-1

Thank you very much Chair.

Excellencies and distinguished delegates

Allow me to also join others in congratulating you on assuming this very important task. I would also like to express my thanks to the Government of Uruguay and UNEP for organizing the meeting. My congratulations also go to the Governments of Peru and Ecuador for the respective appointments as Chair of this very important negotiations.

I think we all agree that the task we have in front of us is challenging, yet I am excited by the very strong commitments by Member States, industry, civil society and all stakeholders, to take drastic actions to end plastics pollution.

Likewise, the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions which are three nearly universal treaties remains fully committed to contribute to this journey, as requested by the respective conferences of the Parties as well as by UNEA. Taken together, the three conventions provide a bold framework to address plastic pollution through a lifecycle approach.

In that context, we have already developed excellent cooperation and coordination with UNEP and the INC Secretariat in the preparation of INC-1. In particular, the third meeting of the Basel Convention Plastic Waste Partnership was held back-to-back with the INC-1 here in Punta del Este, which brought together both governments, the private sector and the civil society in developing areas of cooperation and implementation of the Basel Convention with regards to Plastics. The meeting provided the perfect prelude to the Multistakeholder Forum which allowed us to further exchange views and information.

As you are aware, the Basel Convention provides legally binding obligations to manage plastic waste in an environmentally sound manner, minimize the generation of such waste and control their transboundary movements through the Prior Informed Consent Procedure (PIC). The Plastic Waste Amendments adopted in 2019 and their subsequent entry into force has enabled us to move this agenda

forward and we look forward to the possible adoption of updated technical guidelines on plastic wastes at our upcoming BRS meetings of the Conferences of the Parties in May 2023.

Furthermore, work on the Stockholm Convention on POPs in plastics is also ongoing. 31 persistent organic pollutants are listed under the Stockholm Convention, and we note that 15 out of those 31 POPs, that includes groups of chemicals, are plastic additives, or used in plastic manufacture or byproducts. It is important to note that the issue of plastic additives needs to be addressed as those could hamper safe and sound circular economy. Securing transparency and traceability of chemicals in plastics could be one of the key elements to be discussed.

We have also jointly prepared a number information documents which I hope will be useful in guiding your discussions over the course of this week.

Finally, my team and I remain at your disposal for the entire week to support you or discuss any matter you may so wish in relation to the work we have before us.

Thank you