

**First meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment**

**(Punta del Este, Uruguay, 28 November-2 December 2022)**

**Statement of WEOG**

Thank you Mister Chair,

I have the privilege to speak on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States.

We express disappointment about the deferral of an election for those nominees for the Bureau that have been endorsed by their respective regional groups in keeping with longstanding practice.

Consultations indicated that one delegation intended to oppose nominees from a different regional group. But for such opposition, this body would have been able to elect the entire clean slate of nominees endorsed by their regional groups.

Responsibility for this development rests solely with the delegation that has decided to proactively and deliberately break with decades of precedent in environmental multilateralism for its own political purposes.

We are deeply concerned about this attempt to undermine the spirit of multilateralism that has enabled UNEP to achieve great progress in international environmental affairs. We look forward to the successful election of these nominees at INC 2.

We also encourage EEG to agree on their nomination of two candidates prior to INC 2.

In this regard, we remain confident that we will find a constructive solution.

Thank you.