

## TURKEY'S PROPOSAL FOR 3RD SESSION OF WORKING GROUP MEETING

In section 2.E of the report (*prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277 entitled "Towards a Global Pact for the Environment", in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit, at its seventy-third session in 2018*), "**Gaps in international environmental law and environment-related instruments: towards a global pact for the environment**" regarding gaps related to existing regulatory regimes on protection of oceans and seas, it is stated that:

*Gaps also exist with regard to the material or geographical scope of relevant instruments; for example, while some aspects of marine debris, plastics and microplastics are covered by several global, regional and national instruments, none of them, other than some regional action plans on marine litter, are specifically dedicated to these issues.*

Regarding above mentioned issue, Turkey is party to several international and regional conventions regarding marine environment protection such as Marpol, Barcelona and Bucharest Conventions and conducts all marine protection studies according to these conventions.

As the end of 2019, Marine Litter Action Plans including prevention at source, clean-up and awareness-raising activities will be completed for all of Turkey's coastal provinces.

During pollution prevention and clean-up studies, Turkey determined the necessity of taking new measures in order to tackle efficiently with marine litter and microplastics.

Unfortunately, existing programmes and measures are not sufficient to effectively reduce the marine litter and microplastics.

More restrictive and solution-oriented steps must be taken in coordination with all parties.

That's why Turkey strongly urges the UN to formulate a new solution-oriented and sound international agreement on marine litter and microplastics. Turkey is ready to provide the utmost support for such an initiative.