

Intervention of Philippines to Agenda Item No. 5

Mr. Chair, we wish to reiterate some key points we raised in our submission. A global transboundary issue, plastic pollution is not only a mere waste management problem in Asia. We all have to holistically look at both upstream and downstream activities and address the problem through a life cycle approach, focused primarily on prevention. This is consistent with the vision set by the UN Environment Assembly towards the long-term elimination of all marine litter discharge into the ocean.

In the Philippines, an archipelagic country, most of these generated plastic wastes are low value and non-recyclables, particularly the films and sachets.

While national governments like the Philippines can domestically focus on downstream activities of plastic pollution, a global agreement can help countries address the upstream activities as global design standards are developed and established, thereby creating a level playing field for all governments and industries alike. This will facilitate the crafting of national policies and measures to regulate plastic products even before they are placed on the markets to mitigate plastic pollution, which will, in turn, strengthen waste management systems. A global agreement can thus move us all toward sustainable production and consumption of plastic products.

Developing National Action Plans, as the Philippines is currently working on right now, and implementing them should be guided

not only by the national context and circumstances of countries but should also benefit from a binding global agreement. A global agreement can provide a more equitable system of technical and financial mechanisms to support implementation of measures across the entire value chain of plastics, and not only directed towards waste management assistance, as a preliminary inventory of the AHEG shows Solutions must not only be local and national, nor even regional, but also global and binding.

Earlier this year in May, the Philippines, together with 6 other countries in Asia, also explored potential key elements of a global treaty, that will complement local, national and regional actions and frameworks such as those of the ASEAN, the Sea of East Asia, and COBSEA. Similarly, we articulated the need for a comprehensive global policy framework to address both land- and sea-based sources of marine plastic pollution, taking on a life cycle approach. This binding agreement must commit government to address marine plastic pollution through specific, time-bound nationally determined targets based on national contexts and circumstances and monitored through common methodologies so we can track our progress as an international community.

The Philippines continues to espouse the commencement of a negotiation of a new treaty to combat marine plastic pollution and the development of potential key elements that takes into account perspectives from across all regions.

Finally, we are happy to note that many member states in their submissions have also resoundingly expressed their preferred global response option as binding global agreement. Similarly, in

the Asia-Pacific regional consultations, we are also happy to note that many countries, including Pacific Island Countries have expressed their preferred global solution as a new binding global agreement would be the way forward to UNEA-5 that can holistically and effectively address the problem at hand, while taking into account common but differentiated responsibilities and national circumstances and respective capabilities.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.