

WWF Statement Agenda Item 3

Ad Hoc Open Ended Expert Group Final Meeting, November 2020

- Mr. Chair and Distinguished delegates. My name is Penny Meesupya from Thailand, speaking on behalf of WWF
- Firstly we thank the expert group and the Secretariat and welcome the findings presented yesterday and today, including assessment of the sources, pathways and hazards of litter, including plastic litter and microplastics pollution, providing the evidence of serious hazards caused by plastic pollution to our marine environment, human health and the economy, as well as summary of the range of potential tools, resources and mechanisms to solve the problem.
- We want to respond to what has been presented with an urgent call to action and a reality check. The situation is getting worse, not better. We are pleased to note that this expert group, after assessing the problem and potential solutions, has recognized that status quo is not an option, and that we cannot continue on the path of business as usual. But that conclusion is not a cause for complacency; it is a call to action.
- As presented, plastic pollution is a global, transboundary, and cross-sectoral problem, but there is no dedicated global treaty or legal framework in place that properly regulates marine plastic pollution, from source to sink, from upstream to downstream, as seen in the stocktaking exercise. In providing its assessment of the plastic pollution crisis and possible tools to address it, AHEG must acknowledge the undeniable conclusion of the real, alarming rate of the plastic pollution crisis as well as the fundamental lack of a holistic framework for planning and implementing solutions to this crisis. We expect the AHEG, in its report to UNEA, to recommend the urgent start of negotiations on a new legally binding agreement.
- Again, I thank the consultants for your great efforts in the work progress pursuant to UNEA Res.4/6. Thank you Mr. Chair.