

## **Item 4**

### **Consideration of paragraph 7 of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 4/6**

- We appreciate the substantive work that has been done by various consultants and the Secretariat to produce detailed, informative and comprehensive overview of existing activities and actions, identifying technical and financial resources and mechanisms as well as input to analyse effectiveness of various response options.
- Along with other reports and analyses, this is useful information for the AHEG when deliberating response options and identifying the options for further work, especially with respect to our global response options.

#### **(a) Taking stock of existing activities and action (resolution 4/6, para. 7 (a))**

- We note that many actions were reported in all categories on use/consumption and post-consumption (sorting and management of plastics collected). Fewer actions were reported in the design, production, manufacture and raw material phases.
- This finding (these findings are) is in line with other assessments at both national, regional and global level and emphasise the need to put in place governance strategies that can accelerate and coordinate action throughout the life-cycle of plastics.
- This stocktaking has been done as a one-off exercise, but we recognize that there is a need to assess the development in responses and activities on a regular basis to inform our policy-making at the global level, as part of a new global framework.

#### **(b) Identification of technical and financial resources or mechanisms (resolution 4/6, para. 7 (b))**

The report classifies the identified technical and financial resources and mechanisms according to the main plastics life cycle stages to which they are related. We note that a large majority of technical and financial resources identified in the report targets downstream measures, while a relatively small degree upstream measures.

- Previous assessments have estimated that up to 80 percent of the environmental footprint of plastics products are decided in the design phase. This points to a potential discrepancy/mismatch in the effective allocation of resources between downstream and upstream measures and underscores the clear need for a global framework to provide better coordination of resources.

#### **(c) Encouragement of partnerships that undertake activities in relation to the prevention of marine litter (resolution 4/6, para. 7 (c))**

- Thanks for the updates on various partnerships throughout the AHEG's work, informing us about the large variety of initiatives taken. However, we still see that there is a need to strengthen coordination and cooperation at the global level, to make sure we are hitting the target with our efforts

**(d) Analysis of the effectiveness of existing and potential response options and activities (resolution 4/6, para. 7 (d))**

- Gathering information on the various efforts undertaken and assessing their contribution to the overall goal is a highly complicated and challenging exercise that requires a lot of time and effort, which the document clearly illustrates.
- The report uses indicators such as maturity, feasibility, time frame and impact to assess the effectiveness of response options. In regards to potential response options, this methodology is not applicable. This will be determined by the will of political leaders as well as the design of the response option in question.
- Furthermore, when it comes to existing response options, it is important to underline that the results of the analysis only gives an *indication* of effectiveness, based on a qualitative assessment. It does not assess to what degree the different response options contribute to *actually* reducing the volume of plastic waste that ends up in the marine environment. In order to analyse effectiveness of various measures, we need more data and we need data that is comparable over time. Currently, we do not have systems to enable gathering of data.
- The document clearly demonstrates that there is a need to develop a monitoring and reporting framework that will enable harmonized data collection. This will make it possible to assess the progress towards the goal of reducing the amount of marine litter entering our oceans, and we believe this can be done as part of a new global agreement.
- Given that this document is merely meant to inform the discussion by government experts in the AHEG on the recommendations for further work, we take note of the report as is in this summary document.