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Switzerland Interventions following the agenda, 10 Nov

Fourth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics,
09 – 13 November 2020

Agenda item 4:

Consideration of paragraph 7 of the United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 4/6:

General remarks

- Switzerland would like to express appreciation with the substantive work that has been conducted by the consultants and the Secretariat to produce detailed, informative and comprehensive overviews of existing activities and actions.
- This delegation has stated that since 2016 we have come a long way of assessing and understanding the status quo of both the technical and research-related work, and the gaps with respect to the legal framework.
- In this light, the proposed methodology for analyzing effectiveness is helpful. Given the abstract nature of this exercise, any more detailed assessment, e.g. on quantitative indicators, will only delay the further process.
- Along other reports and analyses, we should draw upon this information when deliberating the options for further work, especially with respect to our global response options.

a) Stocktaking of existing activities and action (UNEA resolution 4/6 subparagraph 7a); to take stock of existing activities and action by governments, regional and global instruments, international organizations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other relevant contributors to reduce marine plastic with the aim of the long-term elimination of discharge into the oceans,

- Switzerland welcomes the work performed towards taking stock of the activities.
- We made the following two observations with respect to the results presented
 - One: With respect to the types of activities, legislative work is largely underrepresented in contrast to outreach-related work. The same holds true for the “monitoring and analysis” part, especially upstream.
 - Two: With respect to the global geographic focus, national and sub-national levels make up 45% of the activities reported, whereas global action was only reaching 14%.
- These observations show that both outreach-related work and the current level of activities at national to sub-national levels will not be sufficient
 - One, to address the threat that is of global nature, and
 - Two, it is not sufficient to embed it into a stringent response in an umbrella, that is an agreement.

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