

MALAYSIA'S WRITTEN STATEMENT FOR AHEG4
11 November 2020

Statement at AHEG for Agenda Item 4 (d) Analysis of the effectiveness of existing and potential response options and activities (UNEA resolution 4/6 subparagraph 7d)

General comments:

The proposed response options at all level (international, regional and national) focuses more on legal and policy instruments and measures that need to be taken by government and industries. One of the best way identified to stop marine litter is to stop it at source and this requires among others, behavioural change from consumers, communities and producers Therefore, we suggest that is equally important to highlight the need for a comprehensive CEPA and behavioural change element at every level of response option.

Specific comments:

Item IV(A) Strengthening the existing international framework

Malaysia is of the view that the gap identified under the existing international and regional framework should be addressed and strengthened within its existing framework. We note the time frame required for amendment process is long, but it will require the same process and time for a new global agreement, even if it is voluntary in nature.

Item IV(B) Developing global design standards

We support the finding in Para IV(B) as Malaysia has highlighted the needs to have a centralised platform where information, best practices, latest innovation, standard and guidelines can be shared and adopted in addressing the marine litter and microplastics issues.

Item IV(C) New international Framework

Not discounting the benefits from ~~a~~ a new international agreement, readiness at national and sub-national levels as a critical success factor in implementing the agreement must be taken into account and prioritised.

While we believe that a comprehensive international framework is important in addressing marine plastic and micro plastics pollution, the effectiveness of the binding and voluntary international measures need to be guided by (but not limited to) the following principles and approaches:

- precautionary principle
- polluter pays principle
- transparency and accountability
- common but differentiated responsibilities
- ecosystems-based approach
- life cycle approach
- participatory approach
- involvement of major groups

Item IV(D) Strengthening the existing regional framework

On the regional scale, some of the response options recommended is to establish a regional sharing platform on knowledge, best practices, collaborative network in research and strengthening economic gains. This is important is driving a new plastic economy. Every stakeholder's initiatives and objectives should be streamlined to avoid duplication of activities and addressing the gaps to ensure effective implementation. There is also a need to map and monitor the flow and source of marine litter at regional level while continuing the cooperation on science and management of waste between countries (G2G). The involvement of non-state actors is important in complementing efforts of governments in addressing the issue.

Item IV(E) Regional marine action plans

Regional marine action plans such as Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) and ASEAN Bangkok Declaration has outlined actions to be taken at regional level in managing marine litter, in accordance with international standards and approaches. Malaysia's national marine action plan and roadmap ~~is~~ are in line with these regional action plans.

Item IV(F) National marine action plans

Malaysia has rolled out Malaysia's Roadmap towards Zero Single-Use Plastics, 2018-2030. This roadmap served as policy guidance for a unified and collective approach by stakeholders with various roles and responsibility in addressing single-use plastic pollution. It is to be used as a guide towards zero single-use plastics in Malaysia in a phased, science-based and holistic approach.

The Malaysia's National Marine Litter Roadmap 2020-2030 will focus on achieving strengthened evidence-based for informed decision making to address marine litter by building national capacities to monitor plastic materials flows and assess waste leakage hotspots in line with global best practice.

Item IV(G) Strengthening waste management using regulatory and market-based instruments

Malaysia is currently developing circular economy roadmap which aims to transform current linear plastic value chain to a circular model. Apart from strengthening the waste management process, extended producer responsibility (EPR) will be introduced to support the implementation of nationwide circular economy roadmap.