

Item 5 - Consideration of submissions on potential response options pursuant to paragraph 10 (d) of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 3/7 on marine litter and microplastics

The UNEA-process and discussions in the expert group so far have proven that there is broad agreement that "status quo" is not a sustainable option and that there is a need for stronger responses to the marine litter and microplastics challenge.

UNEA-3 stressed in its resolution 3/7 the importance of long-term elimination of all discharge of litter and microplastics into the oceans. Currently, there is no international framework that in a systematic and comprehensive way, addresses all aspects of this complex problem and with the aim to fulfil this global vision.

UNEA-3/7 op 8 also invited all relevant organizations and instrument to increase their actions to eliminate all discharge of plastic litter. We have taken important steps to strengthen existing mechanisms, such as the Ocean Plastics Charter, the amendment of the Basel Convention to include stronger control of the trade in plastic waste and the G20 Osaka Blue Vision putting a date to UNEA long-term vision of 2050. Important steps have also been taken to strengthen the regional response as we heard on Monday.

Yet, we need a framework to bring all these efforts together and a system to measure our progress to see if the world is on track to prevent plastic pollution.

No one country can solve this issue alone. Plastic pollution is a global problem that require global solutions, like other global environmental challenges such as climate change, the loss of biodiversity, hazardous chemicals and waste.

Based on the written submissions and statements in the AHEG-meetings, there is clear convergence among a majority in the group on the need for a new global agreement to deliver several key global functions. These key global functions are:

1. A shared global goal

Many of the submissions point to the need for a common long-term vision and objective. As of now, the UNEA-3 zero vision to eliminate all discharge of plastic litter into the ocean is one such global goal. The Osaka Blue Vision put a date to end this by 2050. The SDG target 14.1 have committed us to significantly reduce discharge of marine litter by 2025. The Ocean Plastic Charter have targets and measures with the due date of 2030 and 2040. A new global agreement would need an ambitious goal that we all can work towards.

2. A common approach to national action plans covering the life-cycle of plastics

Many have advocated for ambitious action to be implemented at the national level. The Nordic Report submitted to the AHEG suggests that National Plastics Management Plans could form the core commitment of a new global agreement. The report also includes a toolbox for how such plans could be designed to be effective. Guided by the global goal, countries could develop National Plastics Management Plans that allows for flexibility in

choosing targets and measures that fit their specific circumstances. Having such a commitment in an agreement would bring political ownership, ensure regularity in revision and reporting at a national level.

Additionally, we see support for these key functions:

3. A mechanism to harmonize reporting and monitoring of actions and effects of measures.

4. A financial mechanism to deliver technical support and capacity building.

5. A science and knowledge mechanism that will enable a long-term multi-disciplinary scientific effort to provide access to quality assured information for stakeholders at all levels.

To sum up, it is clear to us that the AHEG:

1) has identified a new global agreement as an international response option as per our mandate from UNEA 3/7 10 (d) (ii) and

2) that there is significant support of a new global agreement to be considered as a potential option for continued work by the UNEA as per UNEA 3/ para 10 (d) (v).

Thank you Mr. Chair