

MALAYSIA'S WRITTEN STATEMENT FOR AHEG4
12 November 2020

Item 6: Preparations for the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

Malaysia applauds the effort and hard work of AHEG's Chair, Secretariat and consultants in gathering the inputs, consolidating the response options and preparing the AHEG's recommendation for UNEA5. We support the importance of reflecting the overall views of the meeting in the chair's summary.

Malaysia is of the view that a holistic and inclusive gap analysis is critically important on all existing international and regional framework to enable this framework to address marine litter issue. Gap identified under the existing international and regional framework should be addressed and strengthened within its existing framework. This will be more efficient in terms of resource utilisation. We feel this needs to be undertaken first before we move to explore a totally new regime. We note the time frame required for amendment process is long, but it will require the same process for a new global agreement even if it is voluntary in nature.

We propose to reflect the need for a set of guiding principles (common but differentiated responsibility, precautionary measures, polluter pays principles etc.) to complement the option for a new global instrument as mentioned in para 20 (f)(ii) of the chair summary's zero draft. This is indeed important as we have heard comments from Member States that a particular country capacity, readiness and context varies from one to another.

We believe all options come with set of circumstances and challenges, especially at national and sub national level. These circumstances need to be cautiously deliberated before such option can be considered. Although we believe that priority should be given on strengthening existing frameworks in addressing the gaps before embarking on a new global agreement hence it is important in the name of objectivity to reflect the views of the all participants.