

**8th Meeting of the Annual Subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent
Representatives to the UNEP
(Online meeting, 25-29 October 2021)**

Agenda Item: Plenary informal consultation: “An in-depth dedicated consideration of draft resolutions relating to the topic of **plastic pollution and marine litter**” foreseen to take place on Wednesday 27 October at 15.30

EU and MS comments

- The EU and its MS strongly support the establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC) at the resumed session of UNEA 5.2, with a mandate to develop a legally binding global agreement aimed at addressing plastic pollution and its impacts on human health, ecosystems and landscapes.
- The EU and its MS thank the proponents of the resolutions for responding favourably to the call of the UNEA President and the Chair of the CPR for timely presenting their intentions and draft resolution(s) at this Annual Subcommittee meeting. The EU and its MS reiterate their co-sponsoring of the draft resolution presented by Peru and Rwanda.
- In order to address this urgent problem effectively in all environmental compartments, we underline the importance of a circular economy approach that covers the full life cycle of plastics - from upstream including sustainable production and consumption, to downstream including environmentally sound waste management. This was broadly recognised by AHEG, and more recently during the September Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution held in Geneva. Such approach is also aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- The EU and its MS therefore find it crucial that the mandate for a legally binding global agreement reflects this approach. The mandate should, without prejudging the final outcomes include the following considerations:
 - Goal(s) and relevant targets and measures aimed at “elimination or minimization of all negative impacts of plastic throughout its life cycle” (wording from the Ministerial Statement) and **support transition to a circular economy**;
 - Holistic and cross-sectoral solutions primarily at **the upstream part of the plastics life-cycle, thus going beyond waste management**, and focus on preventing leakage through resource-efficiency and long-term sustainable and circular use of plastic products;
 - **Action at all levels, including national action plans, as well as regional and global actions**, making sure that all countries have, or acquire, the tools and have flexibility to implement international policies, including goals and targets set in the legally binding global agreement, according to national specific circumstances;
 - Complement and enhance the coherence with existing regional and global instruments, through the creation of synergies, avoiding duplication of efforts;

- Promote the **strengthening of scientific cooperation**, taking full advantage of the existing and new technical knowledge that is being acquired, streamlining and sharing of best practices, as well as for the coordination of **efforts by all stakeholders involved**;
- Enable effective **monitoring** and reporting of marine litter and all types of plastic pollution (to ensure traceability and transparency) and their impacts that would allow for optimization of measures both at the national and regional levels and with regard to implementation of the legally binding global agreement;
- Enable optimal use of existing financial mechanisms and funds while at the same time fully utilizing the potential of private sector involvement.
- As said before, the EU and its MSs remain open for discussions on how to best address these important aspects, as well as the substance thereof in a general and open manner. We should have an open and broad exchange of views before the start of the negotiations.
- We are of the view that leaving certain flexibility for the INC to discuss other elements will be crucial. The EU and its Member States believe that the draft proposed by Rwanda and Peru reflects these key elements and serve as a good starting point for discussions on the mandate. We stand ready to engage constructively with everyone on this basis.