

## **Thank You Mr. Chair**

First of all, Pakistan would like to thank Government of Uruguay for hosting first session of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at beautiful city of Punta del Este. We would also like to appreciate the United Nations Environment Programme and INC Secretariat for organizing the first meeting of INC.

## **Mr. Chair**

Rapidly increasing levels of plastic waste pose a serious global environmental problem. Plastic pollution arise at all stages of the life-cycle and

pose a threat to human health, environment and biodiversity. Marine litter negatively affects marine biodiversity, ecosystems, fisheries, maritime transport, tourism, and local societies and economies. Microplastics can be found in our food, water and even in the air we breathe.

**Mr. Chair**

Ministry of Climate Change imposed a complete ban on manufacture, import, sale, purchase, storage and usage of polythene bags in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) since 14<sup>th</sup> August 2019.

Ministry also conducted a study on plastic waste in Pakistan in February 2021. Major findings are:

- 3.9 Million Tons of plastic waste generated in 2020, 70% (Approx 2.6 Million Tons) of plastics waste is mismanaged and only 30% (1.3 Million Tons) is recycled/processed
- 10 % of this plastic waste are single use plastic bags

Pakistan National Plastic Action Partnership (NPAP) was established in February 2022 with

the support of World Economic Forum and is being implemented by the Ministry and WWF Pakistan. The goal of the partnership is to provide a platform of action for plastic waste management to all the key stakeholders and players. The major outcome of the NPAP will be the creation and implementation of a circular economy framework for the plastic sector in Pakistan to reduce plastic waste and pollution.

We would like to inform that CoRe (Collect & Recycle) is the first ever alliance in Pakistan, formed in 2020, with the mission to eliminate

packaging waste by enabling formal collection and recycling, while also raising awareness at a mass level. It envisions to create a circular economy by reducing packaging footprint through sustainable and innovative practices.

World Bank conducted a study on plastic pollution in the Indus River Basin and other regional studies in Pakistan.

**Mr. Chair**

We would like to encourage the producers and manufacturers of plastics products to stop the use

of hazardous and toxic additives in their products and to change their process designs to produce recyclable plastics.

We would also like to encourage the industries and companies to collect their plastic waste and recycle it in environmentally safe manner on the basis of polluter pay principles and extended producer responsibility.

**Mr. Chair**

We would like to request the Committee to focus on the objectives, scope and structure of the

instrument. Finally, we fully support the UNEA resolution 5/14 on international binding instrument to end plastic pollution.

**Thank you, Mr. Chair**