

Statement by Norway on agenda item 4, sub-item 3a: Core obligations, control measures and voluntary approaches as well as national action plans

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

The core of this instrument will be the obligations Parties will take on, and the control measures Parties will implement. This is what will build trust in a collective effort that will be sustained over time.

We see the need to restrain consumption and production of plastics to sustainable levels and enable a circular economy that protects the environment and human health, while closing leakage points and reducing other sources of pollution.

Our first priority should be to determine the types of plastic products, polymers and chemical additives that should be phased-out of the economy to quickly reduce plastic pollution.

We see the need for a provision that commits Parties to reduce and phase-out **problematic plastics**, as identified by a number of criteria and listed in an annex to this instrument.

While minimizing the overall demand for plastics, we must maximise the circularity of the plastics put on the global market.

The instrument should identify a set of international **sustainability criteria**, and Parties should commit to take appropriate measures, and meet targets, to promote plastics adhering to these criteria,

This will catalyse better design of plastics, focused on **reusability** and **recyclability** while using **recycled content** free from **chemicals and polymers of concern** to enable the safe circulation of plastic materials. More sustainable design of plastics products will also spur innovation to avoid leakage of macro- and **microplastics** during the use-phase.

Transparency in the value chain of plastics, including in the production of polymers, is necessary to gain sufficient information about plastic products. Disclosure of polymer productions volumes, types of polymers produced, their content of hazardous chemicals as well as content of recycled material is required.

Parties should commit to take measures, and meet targets, to enable environmentally sound **collection** and **sorting** and to maximise **reuse** and **recycling** rates.

The plastics that cannot be reused or recycled should be treated in the most environmentally sound manner, in line with the waste hierarchy, to close leakage points and reduce other sources of pollution.