

**Statement of the Delegation of Ukraine during
INC-1**

**Mr. Chair,
Madam Executive Director, Excellencies,
Dear colleagues,**

First of all, let me express our gratitude to UNEP INC Plastic Secretariat and the Government of Uruguay for the brilliant organization of the first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee on plastic pollutions.

As we all know, the difficult and long-lasting negotiations, followed by a number of compromises were behind the successful adoption of the UNEA resolution 5/14. The same difficult negotiations happened during the open-ended working group meeting in Senegal. We are sure that by the end of the week we will manage to achieve an important, globally beneficial result - an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution.

Despite the difficulties, caused by unprovoked and unjustified invasion of the Russian Federation, the Government of my country, Ukraine is keen of adoption international legally binding instrument on plastic pollutions and makes every possible step to eliminate the problem with plastics wastes in Ukraine.

Ukraine began very progressive and ambitions steps for fighting against plastic pollution. In June 2021 President of Ukraine sign the law on banning plastic bags and from March 2022 it is forbidden to use in Ukraine plastic bags in retails and restaurants thinner then 50 microns. Also we forbidden to use oxo-degradable plastic, which, as you know, create a lot of micro plastic in environment and cause a lot of damage.

We go further and register in Parliament draft of law on banning single use plastic production.

Now the environment of Ukraine and entire Europe is under serious attack. Russian illegal attack on Ukraine has caused an unprecedented danger to ecosystems and biodiversity of Ukraine, Black and Azov Seas region. Russian troops' actions show disrespect to the obligation to protect the environment in times of armed conflict. Hundreds of objects of Ukrainian civilian and critical infrastructure have already been destroyed. As a result of hostilities were formed a significant amount of debris, damage cars, waste of military equipment and others wastes.

In addition, Russian troops bring and leave after themselves a lot of wastes, especially single use plastic and contaminate with them our nature. They also destroyed our capacities to processing of plastic and other recycling products.

Right now our Government is searching solution how to deal with all this huge amount of wastes that were created because of Russian aggression and trying to minimize the damage to environment.

Dear colleagues,

Unprovoked and unjustified invasion of the Russian Federation did not stop Ukraine from combating plastic pollutions. It should not either stop entire global community from achieving internationally binding instrument in this regard.

During last meeting in Dakar we witnessed an attempt of Russian Delegation to spread ill kremlin propaganda and fake news. After the atrocities and war crimes, committed by Russian criminals in Ukraine, unfortunately, it is difficult for us to be surprised by actions of this regime, however, we couldn't believe that its representative, will dare to try to destroy such an important process for global community.

My Delegation deeply condemns any attempts of the Russian Side to use INC fora to spread its propaganda and lies. We believe that UNEP and INC must not be used for raising political issues.

As we have mentioned numerous times, Delegation of Ukraine **never speaks regarding political issues within UNEP, never discuss atrocities and war crimes of Kremlin regime and will never do that.**

We are talking about environment and the ways how to overpass the negative impact of Russian invasion to Ukraine and Europe. Even in Dakar, when we heard the nonsense and lies of Kremlin regime's representative, we kept silent as a sign of respect to all the esteemed delegates and especially their valuable time.

We know that there is no much sense in addressing the dignity and morality of the Russian Side, which demonstrated for numerous time **his disrespect both, for well-established Nairobi spirit and to all of us, representatives of member-states and UNEP Secretariat.** But we do hope that Russian Delegation still has the moral strength at least to abstain from spoiling such an important process as plastic pollutions negotiations.

Dear friends,

We do hope that this meeting will remain purely technical. The Delegation of Ukraine is looking forward to having efficient discussions, consensus-based solutions and mutually beneficial decisions

Thank you.
