

## **Nepal Statement and Written Submission**

**Government of Nepal, Ministry of Forests and Environment,**

**First session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC-1)**

**28 November 2022 - 02 December 2022**

**Punta Del Este, Uruguay**

**Respected Chairman,  
Excellencies,  
Secretary and  
Distinguished Delegates!**

Behalf of the Government of Nepal and my delegation, I would like to extend our thanks with appreciation to the organizer, Governments of Uruguay for organizing this INC1 Meeting and the warm hospitality. Also, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the UN Environment Program for the continued support and Cooperation. It is a matter of great pleasure and privilege for me to participate in the meeting.

We are here in a historic moment to discuss the need for more strengthened and collaborative efforts from all nations to reduce plastic pollution. In this regard, enabling policies and their effective implementation is the responsibility of all member governments. To curb the problem of hazardous wastes disposal, wastes containing or contaminated with micro plastic wastes and for their disposal, we have to establish, expand and strengthen functional collaboration among all stakeholders at the local, national, regional and global levels.

The Government of Nepal has taken various initiatives with appropriate legal instruments, institutional and financial arrangements to control Pollution. Government of Nepal had announced a complete ban on the production, import, sales, distribution and use of plastic bags having thickness less than 40 micron effective from July 16, 2021 to reduce environmental pollution from plastic products. Also, use of cotton, jute or paper bags instead of plastic bags is made mandatory in all business houses including shopping malls and department stores.

Billion tons of plastic waste have been produced by humans, so far, and much of it ends up in nature - causing harm to both living beings and the environment. A huge amount of plastic finds its way into river systems, and eventually into the global ocean ecology. Also, microplastics have found their way into the human food chain. In this regard I would like to highlight the urgency to address the issue of Plastic pollution. **Personally, I believe that plastic pollution is increasing in the Himalayas and Mountain region. Please give attention and also include it in the INC1 documents.**

I would like to reassure here that the Government of Nepal is fully committed towards the protection of the environment through the development and effective enforcement of policies, legislations, action plans and programs in line with the national commitment in international forums. In this regard, we urge UN Environment and Development partners to focus efforts in building national capacities of least developed and developing member states.

Finally, the Government of Nepal expresses its firm belief that meaningful support and cooperation from all member states, development partners, UN agencies, and international institutions will be continued to Nepal.

**Thank you!!!**