

Chair, distinguished delegates and dear colleagues,

First of all, on behalf of the Vietnamese Administration of Seas and Islands, we would like to express sincere thanks to the UNEP Secretariat and the Bureau for the organization of the 4th AHEG meeting despite many difficulties from COVID-19 pandemic.

Our following statements focus on the potential response options that are pursuant to the paragraph 10(d) of the UNEA's resolution 3/7 on marine litter and microplastics.

Dear colleagues,

Viet Nam is a developing country with the high population of more than 90 million people. Plastic products have generated a number of benefits to society, but at the same time, plastic pollution has become a persistent and widespread challenges. Viet Nam has recognized that the “marine plastic litter and microplastics” are important issues.

Toward the achievement of the Target 14.1 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that calls for preventing and significantly reducing marine pollution of all kinds, Viet Nam has made great efforts through the strong political commitments as well as the practical activities in managing waste reduction. We have adopted a development strategy to promote maritime economy in parallel with protecting maritime environment and ecosystem. One of the specific objectives until 2030 set out by the Strategy is “Preventing, controlling and significantly mitigating the marine environmental pollution; being a regional pioneer in reducing ocean plastic waste”.

The Vietnamese Government approved the “National Action Plan on Marine Plastic Debris Management through 2030” by the Decision No. 1746/QĐ-TTg dated December 4, 2019 of the Prime Minister; thereby aiming to the year 2030 to reduce plastic waste in the sea and in the ocean by 75%; collect 100% of the lost or the discarded fishing gear; ensure 100% of the coastal tourist attractions, destinations, tourist accommodation facilities, and other tourism services do not use single-use plastic products and persistent plastic bags; ensure a campaign to collect wastes and clean up beaches nationwide is launched at least twice a year; ensure 100% of marine protected areas are plastic waste-free. Currently, provinces and ministries in Viet Nam are developing/integrating their local and sectoral action plans to meet the national action plan's objectives.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment is also intensively promoting the revision of the Law on Environmental Protection, with breakthrough regulations on the management of plastic waste, domestic waste segregation, public-private cooperation in waste management activities as well as focusing on the Extended Producers Responsibility to collect, recycle, and reuse packaging. The provisions in the law will be the basic foundation for implementation as well as achievement of the criteria set out in the National Action Plan.

Dear colleagues,

It is reported that more than 80% of virgin plastic resin is imported into Viet Nam for product manufacturing. The plastic products are not only served for domestic consumption but also for foreign consumption. Despite many efforts, Viet Nam can't efficiently manage plastic across the value chain, especially in upstream solutions. Referring to other some developing countries, there are similar challenges. By nature, marine plastic litter is a global issue; and we can't debate the Circular Economy and the Extended Producer Responsibility within one nation or even a region, we have to debate to find out the holistic solutions at

global scale.

Dear colleagues,

We all know that the solutions to this global challenge are multiple and require consideration of a systemic approach to the various pollution sources, both land- and sea-based sources, and a combination of intervention in different sectors and at different levels. Those reasons require all the public sector, private sector, civil society, people's organizations need to work together and coordinate efforts to address this challenge. We highly evaluate the "APPROACH" of the Nordic Ministerial Council Report on Possible elements of a new global agreement to prevent plastic pollution.

According to WWF, the Ellen MacArthur Foundation and Boston Consulting Group (2020), there are 29 major global companies, including Amcor, Borealis, Danone, H&M, Mars, Nestlé, PepsiCo, Tesco, The Coca-Cola Company, Starbucks, Unilever and Woolworths, have backed the call through a business manifesto calling for a UN treaty, and more than 500 organizations have signed the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment, setting clear targets to achieve a circular economy for plastic. We believe that all good information should be a practical basis to ensure the feasibility of a global agreement and of a transition to a plastic circular economy.

Dear all,

Aligned with the views expressed by many Member States, Viet Nam supports building a legal binding global agreement within UN in order to help UN's member nations addressing plastic pollution. Specifically, in developing such an agreement, we propose the following principles:

- 1) Following a common vision to achieve the Target 14.1 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, while differentiating responsibilities between developed countries and developing countries.
- 2) Implementing Circular Economy and Extended Producers Responsibility as major management solutions
- 3) Mandating National Action Plan for addressing marine plastic litters
- 4) Establishing a system of Regional Marine Plastic Research Centers around the world in order to improve, enhance the capacity building and information sharing – a satellite of UNEP.
- 5) Ensuring a financial and technical mechanism that will support all implementation efforts
- 6) Harmonizing monitoring and reporting of actions.

In preparations for the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, we expect the outcome documents of this meeting to reflect the priority of response options and define clear recommendations that have been submitted and discussed by Member States.

Thank you.