

Philippine Intervention on AHEG-4 Agenda Item 6

Preparation for the 5th Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

(with attached Annex-1: Inputs to the Zero Draft of the Chair's Summary)

We appreciate the zero draft of the Chairperson's Summary containing the substantial findings of past meetings and its elaboration on developing national plans of action, regional actions and voluntary frameworks.

We respectfully suggest that the **high level of support by a large majority of government experts around the international response of global legal framework and the common elements covering the entire plastic chain** such as the common vision and global goal, global design standards and rules, harmonized monitoring, science-policy interface, implementation support, should be accordingly highlighted as **a principal global response option** moving forward. Such **convergence around this new binding global agreement and its elements should be squarely and explicitly reflected in the AHEG4 Meeting Outcome and the Chairperson's Summary of the work of AHEG**

Finally, the Philippines stresses that as an international community of government experts in this AHEG, aided by the Secretariat, consultants and the multi-stakeholder groups, it is our task, in accordance with our mandate under UN Resolution 3/7 and 4/7 and in keeping with the rules of the UNEA, to ensure that we inform the Member States of not only the past work that we have done but also furnish them **clear and concrete recommendations on how to proceed** by establishing a vision for further work of the UN Environment Assembly.

We, as the AHEG, thus need to translate this growing support for this needed global response into action and , thus considering the high level of support for a global agreement, **recommend a mandate to begin negotiations, using the key elements proposed as a starting point, to be adopted at the Fifth UN Environment Assembly. #####**

Annex I

PHILIPPINES' INPUTS TO THE ZERO DRAFT CHAIR'S SUMMARY
(4 NOVEMBER 2020 VERSION)

Further to our written submission, the Philippines accordingly submits with all due respect these proposed changes to the Draft Chair Summary in order to accurately reflect the facts.

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8. The stocktaking submissions included: a focus of actions addressing microplastics; lack of harmonization of monitoring 25 different protocols cited in 37 monitoring actions reported. **Actions were predominantly national or subnational in focus, rather than global, transnational or regional.** Majority of actions focused on the coastal zone or urban environment and the use/consumption and post-consumption (sorting and management of plastics collected) or the design. **Other actions inventoried** were on production, manufacture and raw material phases. **Public finance funded most of the actions, with private sector finance and voluntary donations contributing.** ~~Funding source for actions were public included public finance, private sector finance and voluntary donations.~~

9. Among the 53 narrative submissions (using the G20 reporting format) 26 were from UN Member States, 24 from major groups and stakeholders, two from intergovernmental organizations and 11 from UN entities while noting that Member States continue to update and develop their legislation, policies, standards, rules and strategies on marine plastic litter while national frameworks are more prevalent. They further include actions on bans affecting single-use plastics, waste management, Extend Producers Responsibility (EPR), circular economy approach, incentives/disincentives, capacity-building, clean-ups, monitoring actions, the use of biodegradable plastics, and knowledge acquisition. **Most of these actions were focused on downstream activities and not on upstream activities or prevention.**

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16. **The development of a potential legally binding global agreement was proposed by a large majority of the experts, while other options were proposed** ~~some following options~~ for enhanced coordination and governance ~~were proposed but~~ **These options** are not mutually exclusive and could be explored in parallel:

- Consider strengthening coordination at the global level
- Improve coordination at the regional level
- Encourage new, and enhance existing, forms of financing and technical support to developing countries and small island developing States
- ~~Consider the feasibility and effectiveness of a potential international legally binding agreement on marine litter and microplastics~~
- Consider the establishment of a forum enabling governments, industry, academia, civil society and

other stakeholders to share experiences and coordinate action on a regular or ad hoc basis.
UNEA resolution 4/6 paragraph 7 (d)

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20. The AHEG recommends that UNEA continues work on developing the functions such as those mentioned a – e below. These potential options are not mutually exclusive.

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21. To accelerate above-mentioned functions by

- i. Strengthening existing instruments, frameworks, partnerships, and actions that address marine plastic litter and microplastics including efforts to develop and improve the capacity of countries to undertake environmentally sound waste management, such as the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML), G20 implementation framework and Ocean Plastics Charter.
- ii. Developing a potential global legally binding instrument to provide a legal framework to that could contain either legally binding and/or non-binding elements, such as global and national reduction targets, phasing out avoidable plastic products, facilitation of national and regional action plans, and sharing of scientific knowledge through scientific panel

Either way intends to cover all stages of plastics life-cycle and promote a circular economy.

22. The AHEG thereby identified a possible vision for future work to guide further actions by the UN Environment Assembly. It considered the necessary modalities to deliberate feasible global targets, actions, and indicators to achieve this vision.

23. The AHEG therefor recommends that one option for UNEA-5 is to establish an Inter-Governmental Negotiation Committee to focus on this task with a view to develop a global agreement to cover all stages of plastics and promote a circular economy and taking into account national circumstances and contexts.