

Fourth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics

9 – 13 November 2020, Online

AGENDA ITEM 6: DRAFT CHAIR'S SUMMARY– TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

1. Thank you, Mr. Chair for giving us the floor, and thanks to you and to the Secretariat for all your efforts in preparing the relevant presentations and documents, and getting us to where we are today. We especially appreciate the online repository, which, in our view, contains a wealth of information that will be useful to us in our response at a national level.
2. Trinidad and Tobago, as a small island developing state, is particularly vulnerable to the effects of marine litter and microplastics, and is acutely aware of the adverse impacts on marine ecosystems, industries, livelihoods and human health.
3. As such, we have been actively engaged at the national and regional levels, as well as at the international level through multilateral environmental agreements such as the Basel Convention and initiatives such as the Clean Seas Campaign.
4. Trinidad and Tobago is also a member of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM), which just last year adopted the St. John's Declaration in St. Lucia. Among other things, this Declaration emphasises that plastics and microplastics is a global issue, and global action is urgently needed to prevent further plastics pollution, and its damage to human health and marine life.
5. We believe that, in line with the mandate of the AHEG, the response options considered should be presented in a "neutral" manner, and without specific recommendations. Notwithstanding, it would be helpful to the discussions at UNEA, if some indication is provided on the level of support for the various options, as expressed during the AHEG meeting by participants. We believe that the revisions included in Paragraph 23 of the Revised Draft Summary are sufficient for this purpose.
6. Mr. Chair, we thank you.