

Philippine Intervention to AHEG-4 Agenda 7. Other Matters

Preparations for the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

As we conclude the fourth and last meeting of AHEG, the Philippine Delegation wishes to thank the Chair, the Secretariat, and distinguished delegates for the substantive work we have done since our first meeting in May 2018.

We have progressed significantly in understanding the state of knowledge; assessing gaps especially in the current legal frameworks that are found to be fragmented and ineffective; stocktaking existing actions that we have found to be mostly focused on national and sub-national actions and on downstream measures; inventorying technical and financial resources and identifying a range of responses at various levels.

Since the 1st AHEG meeting, we have unanimously agreed that maintaining the status quo is not an option. Thereafter, we have seen that reviewing and revising existing frameworks are not enough, even while very helpful such as the amendments to the Basel Convention, among others.

As we progress towards and is concluding now at this 4th AHEG meeting, majority of the government experts from the Pacific Islands, European Union, Nordic and African regions, and from Asia, Vietnam and Philippines, among many others, joined by civil society and businesses, **have not only converged around the necessity of a binding global agreement as our international response option but have also expounded on potential key elements**, which mutually reinforces, complement and accelerate regional and national actions. As the UNEP Executive Director Inger Anderson shared with us this evening, marine plastic pollution is an issue that we can only tackle in unison.

As we thus end tonight, we are pleased to note that as members of AHEG, in keeping with our mandate, this would be **an international response that Member States at the Fifth UN Environment Assembly will be considering for further work.**

The Philippines, thus, looks forward to working with the rest of the international community for **an ambitious outcome at UNEA-5 so we can begin, through an International Negotiation Committee, the negotiations and identification of elements of an effective global treaty. #####**