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**United Nations
Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment
Programme**

**United Nations Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment Programme
Fifth session**

Nairobi (hybrid), 22–26 February 2021
and 28 February–2 March 2022*

**Draft resolution on a framework for addressing plastic product
pollution, including single-use plastic product pollution (version
of 28 January 2022)****

Submission by India

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The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling the resolution on ‘Addressing single-use plastic product pollution’ adopted by fourth meeting of United Nations Environment Assembly in 2019;

Aware that an estimated 60-99 million tonnes of mismanaged plastic waste was generated globally in 2015, and that this amount could increase to 155-265 million tonnes per year by 2050 under a business-as-usual scenario¹

Aware that one of the main sources of plastic pollution and marine litter is uncollected and littered plastic waste originating from land-based sources²;

Concerned that increase in use of single-use plastic products leads to increase in littered plastic waste which has adverse environmental impacts;

Bearing in mind that plastic packaging is a major component of disposable single-use plastic products worldwide;

Mindful that, globally recycling rate of plastics is less than ten percent and mismanaged and littered plastic waste leak into the environment³

Emphasizing the need for addressing single use plastic product pollution the increasing use of single-use plastic products through involvement of governments, key stakeholders, such as plastics

* In accordance with the decisions taken by the Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its meeting held on 8 October 2020 and by the bureaux of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives at their joint meeting held on 1 December 2020, the fifth session of the Environment Assembly was adjourned on 23 February 2021 and is expected to resume as an in-person meeting in February 2022.

** The present document has not been formally edited.

¹ UNEP report 2021-Drowning in Plastics.

² Global Environment Outlook 6 report-2019.

³ From Pollution to Solution- UNEP report-2021.

producers, retailers, the consumer goods industry, importers, packaging firms, plastic waste processors and recyclers,

Acknowledging the important role of availability of alternatives in reducing the use of single-use plastic products;

Conscious that reusable products may replace single-use plastic products in the long run to ensure reduced resource use and enhance sustainability;⁴

Noting that for effective management of plastic waste especially, caused due to single-use plastic products, is critical to reduce the impact of plastic waste on the environment,

1. *Encourages* Member States to develop plastic waste management strategies based on the principle of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle which results in resource efficiency and reduction in generation of plastic waste;
2. *Calls* on Member States and other relevant actors at the local, national, regional and international levels, including in the private sector, civil society to emphasize responsible consumption and production of disposable single-use plastic products and sustainable plastic packaging;
3. *Invites* Member States to prepare national or regional actions plans to reduce use of single-use plastic products, where appropriate, through applicable legislative and regulatory measures;
4. *Encourages* Member States to implement Extended Producer Responsibility for managing plastic waste, along with relevant stakeholders, promoting reuse of plastic packaging, where practicable, ensuring recycling of plastic waste, and to the extent possible, avoid end of life disposal;
5. *Encourage* Member States and private sector to develop and promote sustainable plastic packaging designs based on the following criteria (i) promoting reuse, (ii) amenable for recycling, (iii) use of recycled plastic content and (iv) reduced material use.
6. *Also encourages* Member States to develop policies and frameworks for promoting recycling of plastic waste including through use of recycled plastic in plastic packaging as per domestic laws, rules and regulations;
7. *Invites* Member States, intergovernmental organizations, the scientific community, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders to promote and enhance cooperation in scientific research for development of environmentally sound alternatives to single-use plastic products, where appropriate, and to tackle plastic pollution within local, national and regional voluntary and regulatory frameworks, as appropriate
8. *Invites* Member States to provide statistical information, annually, on a voluntarily basis, *inter alia*, with respect to plastic waste generated and plastic waste processed in an environmentally safe manner to United Nations Environment Programme;
9. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in partnership with other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, to undertake the following actions:
 - (a) Organize the following forums with participation of member states and to develop, implement, monitor and report on addressing the plastic product pollution including single-use plastic product pollution:
 - (i) **Legal and Policy Forum** to examine and address the factors involved in design, implementation, review of regulations, bring coherence in international, national and regional regulations, devise standard protocols and procedures such as market-based mechanisms, extended producer responsibility schemes, for adoption by member states;
 - (ii) **Technology Forum**, consisting of experts with technical expertise, members of international organizations, representations from Member States, to review technologies related to design, production, manufacturing, consumption including waste management, alternatives to single-use plastic products and help dissemination of such technologies in an equitable manner;

⁴ Addressing Single-Use Plastic Products Pollution using a Life Cycle Approach-UNEP report.

- (iii) **Finance Forum** to devise financial mechanisms to help support transition to take up and implement actions to reduce plastic product pollution including single-use plastic product pollution;
 - (iv) **Monitoring and Reporting Forum** to make available the information provided by Member States on the plastic waste generation and processing, in form of a report, in advance of sixth session of United Nations Environment Assembly and subsequent sessions thereafter;
- (b) Convene meetings on an annual basis with intersessional engagements consisting of group of Member States and stakeholders including industry, having geographical and regional balance, to provide an analysis and way forward for addressing single-use plastic product pollution in advance of sixth session of United Nations Environment Assembly and subsequent sessions thereafter.
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