

**First Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Expert Group (AHEG)
29-31 May 2018 | Nairobi, Kenya**

Canada's Remarks to Item 7: Feasibility of effectiveness of different response options

We have heard a lot of valuable input from Member States, the major groups and others over the last two days. With mentions of a number of needs and issues that are of concern as summarized well by the co-chair earlier this afternoon.

We agree that the precautionary principle applies and that solutions should be developed to emphasize prevention. We agree that we have enough information to take action.

I understand our role as an Expert Group is to develop robust analyses and advice that will lead to the identification of response options but I don't think this work is quite finished yet.

We would like to see the information collected in the previous analysis correspond to the measures outlined in the options put forward by the Secretariat.

We recognize that UNEP has prepared two comprehensive technical reports: one in 2016 to outline the state of knowledge globally; and the 2nd in 2017 - an overview of all relevant frameworks regionally and globally that relate to marine litter and microplastics.

In moving forward, we need to know what is missing and what is not working within the frameworks that are in place. We see 4 key areas that we would like to see addressed before discussing response options.

The **first** is the identification of the gaps that currently exist. What areas are not being covered by regional and international frameworks?

Second - is identifying what are the challenges of the existing frameworks. For instance, the Basel Convention is legally binding and captures waste items, including plastics, which has broad reach with 186 parties that calls for sound waste management in these countries. The Basel Convention also has compliance and reporting mechanisms in place but it is clear that adequate waste management systems are not in place globally. With that said, we see value in thorough analysis of the challenges within these frameworks and where these can be strengthened.

Third – there has been some recommendations for global coordination. We would value more discussion and analysis of what the coordination needs are and how this would meet the barriers identified.

Fourth - building off of the statement by the children and youth group calling for action in the short term and recognizing that a new framework would take time and we don't want to curb

the current extensive momentum in actions by governments and civil society – we would like to encourage discussion of what can be done in the short term and also consider what needs and can be done also in the medium and long-term to advance this issue.

Finally, we wish to see this discussion broadened and workshopped at the November ad hoc expert group meeting to further refine the barriers, solutions and other tasks requested through the UNEA resolution. We are also happy to hear of the upcoming reports as noted by the Secretariat that will be available for the next meeting and look forward to seeing that analysis.

Perhaps the Secretariat could reach out the existing frameworks identified through the 2017 UNEP assessment such as IMO and the Basel Convention to request them to provide a brief overview of the gaps and challenges to implementation in relation to marine litter and microplastics as well as highlight some mechanisms that have worked well to inform our analysis of barriers and potential response options.