

## First Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Micro-plastics

### Business and Industry major group intervention regarding UNEP Discussion Paper on environmental, social and economic costs and benefits of different response options

- Industry appreciates the efforts of UNEP to outline the costs and benefits within the response options outlined in the assessment and also support member state interventions noting that we should not limit ourselves to solely those options. As an example, a range of stakeholders including the civil society, the private sector, and academia are supporting the development of financing mechanisms for waste management systems in rapidly developing countries to help address leakage of plastic into the ocean.
- As has been noted by other member states, we must take a holistic approach when considering replacements for plastics and consider resource efficiency. It's necessary to look at each item in relation to its functionality and full lifecycle in order to come to the determination of which products are the most sustainable.
- In terms of the benefits and costs of the different response options **we would like to stress the importance of ensuring efficiency and coordination in our activities and avoiding duplication.** We believe that a close adherence to the resolution that was agreed to at the Third U.N. Environment Assembly Meeting will help to ensure that we do not duplicate activities that are being addressed by other groups and help minimize costs and maximize the benefits from our engagements.
- For example, numerous member states have noted numerous national and international systems and frameworks to address health and environmental concerns regarding chemicals. We urge against duplicating these efforts and that initial efforts should focus on coordination with existing efforts.
- We also believe that certain activities are most effectively addressed in regional and global fora and other issues will require individual national actions. Harmonization of standards, monitoring protocols, and definitions are well suited to be addressed through international cooperation.
- Finally, we would like to highlight the effectiveness of industry-led design standards and voluntary measures and targets. Additionally, industry and member states are often able to be more ambitious with their targets and goals when they are voluntary. We understand there are concerns that voluntary goals and targets may not be achieved however there are various measures including the development of metrics, the use of monitoring mechanisms, and the use of key performance indicators to encourage and advance progress towards voluntary goals.

