

DOP 7: Feasibility and effectiveness of response options

- **We thank the secretariat for preparing this paper on international response options. In our opinion, the international response is the right focus for our discussions.**
- **Norway agrees with the findings in the UNEA-3 report that the existing international framework is fragmented, not comprehensive, and not developed for combating problems caused by marine plastic litter and microplastics. There is no single agreement that specifically prevent marine plastic litter and microplastic.**
- **The report is clear on the fragmentation and gaps in the current global legal and policy framework. In other words the report provides a good gap analysis. Coming back to the proposal from Canada, our discussion on these gaps should thus bring us one step further towards the solutions we need to reach our overarching goal agreed at UNEA-3 – to eliminate discharge of marine litter and microplastics into the oceans**
- **In our opinion, there is a clear need for a more holistic, comprehensive governance approach at the global level that is dedicated to combat marine plastic litter and microplastics.**
- **Clearly, in developing a stronger governance structure, we need to work with existing international instruments and bodies, both at the regional and at the global level.**
- **In doing so, we need to clarify the different roles and responsibilities.**
- **There is a role for several relevant international instruments and organisations at the global level, to explore and use all possibilities within their existing mandates.**
- **Norway has put forward proposal for immediate action to strengthen existing measures and action to combat marine litter under the Basel Convention and the IMO.**
- **That said, these will only bring us part of the road as they do not provide a holistic response. So, something more is needed to address the fragmentation.**
- **There is a role for regional frameworks, especially the regional seas frameworks, to further enhance regional cooperation and implementation according to particular challenges and needs in their respective regions.**

- We support the proposal from Canada to get an overview of status and activities at the regional level. Sharing of experiences from the regional level could be part of the workshop proposed by Canada in conjunction with the next Expert Group Meeting.
- There is also a role for business and industry to provide solutions such as more recyclable and durable products, alternative materials and consumer information. Many such initiatives are already taken, and need to be encouraged.
- In addition, we need something new and additional at the global level that provides a common direction for all our work.
- Some delegations have expressed concerns about the timeframe for developing a new global structure. If we agree on the elements to move forward with, we do not think it will be impossible to move ahead quickly.

Such a structure could include:

1. A global goal in response to the long term vision of eliminating all discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics into the oceans
 2. a structure that would support governments in their policymaking and implementation of stronger waste management and waste prevention policies
 3. A global stocktaking on progress towards the global goal and long-planning
 4. Harmonized and standardized methodology for environmental monitoring, definitions and indicators
 5. Technology transfer and capacity building mechanisms
 6. better coordination of efforts globally to give common direction
 7. more effective use and dissemination of available resources
- Our priority is to discuss a global supportive framework. Issues like liability and compliance are at present not at the top of our priorities at this stage.
 - With respect to architecture, the ideas described by Sweden points to the type of specific discussions on how to combine existing and new elements

in a holistic government structure that we need to have. We welcome a discussion on the substantial elements of such a global response.

- **Let me finish by stating that the primary goal of such a structure would be to eliminate all leakage of plastic litter into the marine environment.**

Our aim with this exercise is not to bring an end to plastics as a material, but to better deal with the environmental consequences of plastic pollution.