

SPREP's comments on Item #7:

I believe that there will never be a one size fits all solution considering the diversity of circumstances and specific conditions in each of the regions and countries. What could be beneficial to developed countries may not be the case for developing countries. The environmental, socio-cultural, economic costs widely vary as well. For instance, while the small island developing states may be contributing insignificantly to climate change, they are the recipients of some of the worst impacts of climate change. Similarly, I guess, we believe that we are not significant contributors to ocean pollution but because 98% of our EEZ is ocean, we rely heavily on ocean resources and we will not stop being vigilant and preventing pollution to our zones as what you have heard in the interventions I raised on the floor yesterday. We will always be supportive of the global actions towards beating plastic pollution considering that we are one of the biggest consumers of fish in the globe.

My suggestion is if it is possible to have different scenarios when undertaking CBAs or feasibility studies with due consideration to varying economic conditions across the countries. This will result in more doable options reflective of the country's capacity and would provide an opportunity to assess capacity needs and UN to assist where practicable in getting countries up to speed in addressing marine pollution.

I support the recommendation for smaller group discussions or workshops to derive inputs reflective of the countries' or region's needs and capacity. By delving into specific issues, we will not develop prescriptive actions but rather more owned actions with greater accountability.