

Madame Co-chair,

- Norway welcomes the report by the Secretariat on *national, regional and international response options*. The discussion paper clearly shows an array of legislation, commitments, agreements and strategies to combat marine littering. Many countries and regional bodies already have policies and measures in place. For instance, in Norway, littering is prohibited by law. The paper also shows that many voluntary responses exist.
- Through the three UNEA decisions we have agreed on several important principles that provide guidance for measures and responses at the national and regional level. UNEA-2 also called on UNEP to assist countries in the development and implementation of measures and action plans.
- The UNEA decisions also clearly identify waste management as THE most important factor for preventing marine littering.
- Effective responses to marine littering must ultimately be carried out at the national level. However, the effectiveness of our responses affect the global marine environment and would therefore benefit from concerted global action and agreed measures, as also other states have pointed out in our discussion.
- Lack of effective waste management in one country affect other countries. When the waste ends up in the ocean, we are facing a transboundary problem. Marine litter knows no borders.
- Therefore we need a new global, dedicated structure to combat marine litter and microplastics that is holistic and addresses the problem in an integrated manner.

- Such a structure would give benefits such as:
 - A dedicated global meeting place at government level under the UN, where governments could come together regularly to move forward on actions both at the international and national level.
 - Holistic approach taking into account all sources and aspects of marine litter in a comprehensive manner
 - Improved coordination of efforts to tackle the problem, including the mobilisation of resources
 - Making sure that the problem is handled in a way that ensures continuity, regularity and allows for long-term planning
 - Effective use and distribution of available resources in accordance with agreed priorities in a cost effective and result oriented manner
 - Harmonization and standardization of monitoring and reporting
 - A system for reporting on progress
 - Support for national policymaking and implementation

- We need to focus the discussions on the functions and elements that should be included in such a global structure.

- In addition to a new global architecture, it is important to contribute to concrete actions on the ground. Norway has therefore launched a development programme to combat marine litter. Further, Norway is taking the initiative to establish a multi-donor trust fund in the World Bank to improve waste management and prevent marine litter. As part of the World Banks' PROBLUE Trust Fund on sustainable oceans, Norway has allocated about 13 million US dollars for the fund in 2018, and we welcome other states to partner up and support the fund. We are all dependent on healthy oceans. We recognize that some states are particularly vulnerable and dependent on clean oceans, as small island development states.

- Lastly, let me underline that Norway believes in strong partnerships to combat marine litter – We need partnerships between countries – and partnerships involving the public and private sectors, civil society and major multilateral players. Concerted action on the part of the international community is essential.

