

Thank you, madam Chair. With regard to the international holistic response the issue of marine litter Switzerland would like to join other speakers in underlining the importance of looking at existing instruments in particular the Basel convention, the Stockholm convention, the regional seas conventions and the SAICM.

We would like to highlight that the Basel convention already conducts work with regard to plastics and that it considers options to start further measures in this area. In particular the OEWG under the Basel convention will consider at its next meeting in September a document outlining different options. This document is already available and I thank the BRS secretariat for having informed us yesterday about it.

Switzerland welcomes the proposal put forward by our Swedish colleague that outlined different elements to be explored for a future international architecture with existing international instruments as a starting point and industry being one of the crucial elements. Both voluntary commitments and binding measures should be taken into account.

With regard to existing international instruments fragmentation and its effect on the effectiveness in addressing litter issue is problematic. Moreover, international response measures must be selected as such that high impact is achieved without duplication of existing work. Therefore, Switzerland agrees that the international coordination and governance of these elements mentioned also needs to be considered by this group and that the group can request the support of the secretariat to do so.