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Energy and Communications DETEC
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International Affairs Division

Global Agreement on Plastic Pollution – on the road to UNEA 5.2

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Background



- Prevention of plastic pollution in the marine and other environments needed to support the goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- A series of UNEA resolutions since 2014 addressing the challenge
- The ad-hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter (AHEG) identified a number of response options, including a global agreement on plastics



Ministerial Meeting on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution

- Organized by Ecuador, Germany, Ghana and Vietnam with support from UNEP (September 2021)
- More than 70 Members States supporting the ministerial statement “ [...] we recognize the need for urgent action and affirm our commitment to take the next decisive steps by working towards the timely establishment of an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution at UNEA-5.2, with the aim of achieving a new Global Agreement with ambitious goals, wide participation and means of implementation”.

<http://ministerialconferenceonmarinelitter.com>



UNEA 5.2 Time for Action

- Fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) from Feb 28 to March 2 2022 in Nairobi
- Peru and Rwanda took the lead on a resolution proposal to establish an intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC) with the objective of reducing discharge of plastics into the environment by covering all stages of the plastic life cycle and by adopting a circular economy approach to plastics.





Content of the resolution

- Convene an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to develop an **international legally binding** agreement to combat plastic pollution
- Tackle plastic pollution in a **comprehensive manner** (beyond marine plastic pollution and including microplastics)
- Identify **key elements** of the global response that the INC should consider
- Addressing the **full lifecycle** of plastics and particularly the upstream part of the lifecycle
- **Institutional Arrangement** - financial mechanism and scientific body



Consultations and outreach

- Open and inclusive process with exchange of views towards UNEA5.2
- Co-sponsors: Azerbaijan, Capo Verde, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, EU and its Member States, Guinea, Iceland, Kenya, Madagascar, Norway, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Switzerland, Uganda, Uruguay and UK



Other proposal - Japan

- Similar call for an INC to develop a global legally binding instrument in advance of UNEA-6
- Possible differences in scope and approaches

Time is now – 10 weeks to go

Growing attention towards the issue of the discharge of plastics into the environment from all actors!





Questions/Comments?