

**Intervention of India**  
**Plenary of Second Meeting of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee**

*Thank you Chair*

*At the outset, we would like to thank the Government of France for their warm hospitality in welcoming the delegates for this second INC meeting. We would also like to thank the INC Secretariat for preparing the documents for consideration of INC and organization of this meeting.*

*At UNEA 5.2 held in 2022, all the parties engaged constructively, to develop consensus on the resolution for driving global action on plastic pollution by setting up of an intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop a new international legally binding treaty.*

*It is very important that scope negotiations on the potential elements to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, which could include both binding and voluntary approaches, must be in line with the UNEA resolution 5/14 that we all collectively had adopted.*

*Countries have different levels of development, unique circumstances and differential contribution to the plastic pollution that the world faces today, in all its gravity.*

*This has been duly recognized in UNEA 5/14 through the incorporation of the principles Rio Declaration on Environment and Development especially Common But Differentiated Responsibility, as well as national circumstances and capabilities. While negotiating we need to imbibe these principles in the international legally binding instrument.*

*It is important for the developed countries having technologies and financial resources to provide for means of implementation for ensuring sustainable adoption and implementation of agreed to elements by developing countries.*

*All substantive matters must be agreed by consensus, as this reiterates collective decision-making and reflects shared responsibilities and commitment.*

*Global environmental issues concern each and every-one and need to be acted upon for their own survival and sustainability of the planet.*

*We need to follow consensus-based decision making at INC and the same should apply to Rule of Procedure.*

*India has taken resolute steps to address plastic pollution and walks the talk and speaks from a position of strength and responsibility.*

*The strategy adopted by the Government to tackle un-managed and littered plastic waste has two pillars –*

- Ban on single use plastic items which have high littering potential and low utility, and*
- Implementation extended producer responsibility on plastic packaging.*

*In line with the clarion call of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, the country took a defining step to ban 19 single use plastic items which include plastic cutlery items, straws etc. with effect from 1st July 2022.*

*Extended Producer responsibility is an important governance tool which can help in “closing the loop” and promoting circular economy.*

*Extended producer responsibility on plastic packaging is under implementation in India.*

*Under EPR, inclusion of minimum targets for recycling of plastic packaging waste, reuse of rigid plastic packaging and use of recycled plastic content in plastic packaging, will help in bringing in true circularity.*

*In order to reduce plastic pollution sustainable production and consumption of plastics is the key. Coupled with behavioural change towards adopting sustainable lifestyles. Our Hon'ble Prime Minister gave a clarion call of L.I.F.E. - Lifestyles for Environment at COP26 at Glasgow. We need to replace 'use-and-dispose' economy with circular economy.*

*The spirit of collective action should help us move ahead in negotiating the potential elements of the international legally binding instrument.*

*India stands ready to cooperate with everyone in taking forward the negotiations.*

*I Thank you!*

Excellency Chair and Secretariat,

We are gathered here to make progress on a very important issue of addressing plastic pollution and form a legally binding document to address the scourge at the earliest.

We thank the Chair and Secretariat for all the hard work in leading this process here in Paris.

It is a very sensitive subject and cooperation of everyone is essential. Needless to say that every voice matters and every action counts.

This issue cannot be resolved without wilful support and commitment by all member states to act upon the agreed solution that we may bring out through the INC meetings.

In this regard, it is very important to listen to and give due respect to the views and voice of each member state. The Secretariat is requested to note every comment of the member state and duly reflect them in the document under negotiation. If there is any dissatisfaction in this regard, how do we expect to arrive at an agreed solution that is followed by strong commitment to action?

We are dealing with a global issue that affects everyone on the planet, and therefore, we cannot afford to unheard anyone. Success will come from consensus not from concession. Result will emerge from action not from alienation.

In this spirit, Excellency Chair and Secretariat, we urge for a respectful and action oriented process, with due respect to the rules of UN, during the INC meetings so that we can achieve maximum out of this meeting here in Paris and also from the following meetings to happen in future.