

U.S. Comments on Draft Outline Document for the Ministerial Outcome Document

In response to UNEA President Dr. Edgar Gutierrez-Espeleta's June 2 Draft Outline Document for the Ministerial Outcome Document, the United States would like to reiterate our opposition to negotiating a Ministerial Declaration at UNEA-3. We continue to endorse a Chair's Summary of the UNEA-3 proceedings, which could accurately reflect the full range of views expressed during the meeting, while allowing us to focus the work of the Assembly on more productive endeavors.

Without prejudice to this position, we would like to provide several general comments on this draft outline document in addition to our specific edits:

- We would caution against setting unachievable objectives (such as eliminating marine litter or ending all forms of pollution by set dates) and against including overly prescriptive actions (as in the "Transformative Steps and Actions" section). We suggest, instead, language that emphasizes sustainable and achievable efforts to reduce pollution and human exposure to pollution. In this regard, for example, we recommend language reducing rather than eliminating marine litter;
- We suggest replacing technology transfer language with language emphasizing use of the best available technologies;
- We would note the need to avoid legally-binding language in drafting any such Ministerial Declaration.

The U.S. Administration has not defined its policies on all the issues raised in the letter and we reserve the right to provide further comments in the future.

The above comments are not exhaustive and are intended to emphasize our commitment to achievable actions and cooperation among partners to address these critical issues. We do not intend any of the comments to convey endorsement of the format or the suggestion to include them in a formally negotiated outcome. We thank the UNEA President for his constructive efforts.