AHEG Virtual Preparatory Meeting

Day 3 – Intervention 1

- Thank you Chair, colleagues.

- Canada is pleased that many interventions have noted the importance of continuing and expanding the existing frameworks, such as the G20 Marine Litter Implementation Framework.

- We would like to particularly thank Norway for mentioning the Ocean Plastics Charter.

- A quick factual correction: While the Charter originated from a G7 discussion, not all G7 members have endorsed the Charter and many other countries have. This is not a G7 initiative, it is a global initiative and all countries are welcome to join.

- We would also note that the Charter addresses the problem of upstream sources of marine plastic litter. It takes a lifecycle approach, including an emphasis on ensuring plastics are designed for reuse and recycling.

- The need to expand existing frameworks does not preclude a new global agreement. But such an agreement is likely to require a lengthy negotiation process. We agree with Japan that it is important to consider the criteria of feasibility and timeline in weighing potential response options.

- Therefore, we would advocate that any outcome of AHEG-4 should reflect the importance of existing frameworks in addressing the problem of marine plastic litter in the near term and moving forward.

Day 3 – Intervention 2

- Thank you Chair and the UNEP Secretariat for all of your efforts over the past couple of days in facilitating this meeting, and in preparing the materials.

- Canada supports the use of a summary report as the outcome of AHEG and agrees with the structure and approach of the draft outline provided by the Chair.

- As we have previously noted, it is important for AHEG-4 to not be a negotiating session, and for this summary report to accordingly be factual, identify both potential and existing options, based-on submissions and previous discussions, and remain neutral by not advocating for any specific recommendation.

- We would suggest one small textual change to the draft outline: With respect to the sub-bulleted list of features in Section D, the report should specify that this list is non-exhaustive, as there will surely be features that are not captured by such a list.

- Thank you.