

**Statement of the State of Eritrea at the First Intergovernmental
Negotiating Committee to Develop International Legally Binding
Instrument on plastic pollution, including in the Marine
Environment**

28 November 2022

Punta del Este, Uruguay

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

All protocol observed

Please allow me to thank the people and government of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay for hosting this meeting.

I also would like to thank INC Secretariat for the assiduous work it has done to make this session happen.

Let me also congratulate the governments of Peru and Ecuador for their election as subsequent chairs of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee.

Excellencies,

Eritrea aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Africa Group.

As we commence negotiations to forge an international legally binding instrument that governs our patterns of production, consumption and

management of plastic waste, I feel proud to inform you that this year marks the twentieth year of official banning of single-use plastics in Eritrea.

In the last twenty years, Eritrea has achieved commendable results in greatly reducing single-use plastics. In the process, we learned that without coordinated and concerted global actions, national efforts to tackle plastic pollution are incomplete, if not impossible. Therefore, this gap has effectively necessitated our gathering here in Punta del Este to find a way to curb plastic pollution at global level.

Excellencies,

Eritrea will remain committed to fight plastic pollution. Nevertheless, all measures related to plastic reduction and circulation as well as management of plastic waste requires readily available finance, technology transfer and capacity building. This entails that all rounds of INC negotiations need to give particular attention to the issue of means of implementation so that we can have a successful transition from plastic polluted world to a clean and sustainable environment.

I thank you!

Closing remarks of the State of Eritrea at the First Intergovernmental
Negotiating Committee to Develop an International Legally Binding
Instrument on plastic pollution, including in the Marine Environment

02 December 2022

Punta del Este, Uruguay

Thank you, Mr. Chair for giving me the opportunity.
I congratulate you for ably chairing this meeting.

Mr. Chair,

The first session of the INC has contributed much in giving us a wider view of the complex nature of plastic pollution and the various interests embedded in it.

My delegation appreciates the session for giving equal importance to plastic pollution that occur at different levels of the plastic chain; namely upstream, midstream and downstream. However, we feel that some are more important than others.

Actions taken at midstream and downstream level cannot be achieved without creating another pollution and further contribution to carbon emission which may even lead us to vicious cycle.

We understand that plastic is a readily available product, which is convenient to use and unpainful to our pocket. This implies that unless the volume of virgin plastic entering the market is not strictly controlled, the

availability of cheap plastics and unnecessary consumption will continue to grow.

Technical issues that are related with product design, identifying and banning of plastics that have pollutant elements, and recycling and treating of good plastics have also the potential of being beyond the means and capability of developing countries.

Therefore, Mr. Chair, the plastic menace that we are experiencing today can quickly and meaningfully be reduced when effective measures are taken in controlling the volume of virgin plastics that are entering into the market. Indeed, the world needs to create artificial scarcity so that the value of plastic is increased, unnecessary consumptions are discouraged and reusing and recycling of plastic products are made economically feasible.

Mr. Chair,

As we wait for INC-2, we kindly request the secretariat to make relevant documents available during the intersession period, including a general overview of the socio-economic impact of ending plastic pollution at a global level.

I thank you!