Statement of the Africa Group on Means of Implementation

Thank you, Chair

As we embark on this journey to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, the objective of this Treaty must be underpinned by equally ambitious means of implementation including new, additional, predictable and adequate finance, environmentally-sound technology transfer on concessional and preferential terms and capacity building, while upholding the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. It is important that the discussion on means of implementation takes into consideration overlapping issues relating to the full plastics lifecycle, actions at national level, effective evaluation mechanisms and compliance.

The element to be tackled head-on is the development of a dedicated financial mechanism that includes new and additional sustainable financial resources for the treaty implementation. In essence new financial mechanism will be required to implement this treaty, a Multilateral Fund (MLF) that can benefit from lessons under the Montreal Protocol on substances that depletes the ozone layer. We should learn from past experiences and success stories, of how such a fund helped with the phasing out harmful ozone depleting substances.

Support for developing countries and especially Africa to implement the desired objectives of the treaty is essential, as it has been previously reiterated the majority of African countries are not net producers of plastics yet meet a multitude of challenges including lack of resources and technological capacity to manage various aspects relating to plastics pollution. These challenges are compounded by the burden of toxic and non-recyclable plastic waste exports from outside Africa. Therefore, we underscore the consideration of the unique needs of the African continent in relation to financial assistance, capacity building, technical assistance.

We also highlight environmentally-sound technology transfer (to prevent the transfer of polluting and/or outdated technology) as a critical means of implementation. Most developing countries require tremendous support in accessing reliable and innovative technology to tackle various issues along plastics value chain. Therefore, enhanced international cooperation and partnerships that aim to bridge technological gaps between global north and south are imperative to the success in the implementation of the treaty. Lastly it is important not to overlook the role and need for strategic capacity building that is also vital for facilitating functional preparedness to absorb new technology.
In this vein, it is also vital for us to explore the option of launching a dedicated process to assess the needs of developing countries to implement the provisions of the agreement in a manner which assesses the whole life cycle of plastics.

I thank you,