

AFRICA GROUP STATEMENT ON THE EXPERT GROUP ON MARINE LITTER AND MICROPLASTICS

Chair and distinguished delegates,

I am delivering this statement on behalf of the African Group,

We would like to thank the government of Thailand for hosting this expert group meeting and the secretariat for the logistical arrangements including the preparation of the working documents for the meeting.

The problem of marine litter and micro plastics is a threat to our region as it has serious economic, ecological and social consequences that can derail our progress towards a sustainable development future.

Chair,

Out of 54 African Countries, 25 have taken action on plastics including banning of single use plastics, imposing restrictive levies among others. However, this has come with some challenges such as influx of plastics from other regions through porous borders, inadequate enforcement and loss of jobs among others.

We support the outcome of the recent concluded AMCEN meeting and in particular decision of the African ministers on the problem of plastic pollution

In this regard, we commit to engage constructively in the discussions throughout this week on ways to address all the issues and identify options in preparation for the 5th session of United Nations Environment Assembly.

We thank you for your kind attention