

**NATIONAL STATEMENT AT THE PLENARY OF THE OPEN
ENDED WORKING GROUP TO PREPARE FOR THE WORK OF
THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE OF
THE PLASTIC POLLUTION**

Chair, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen;

Kenya aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the African Group. Let me begin appreciating the Government of Senegal for hosting this inaugural meeting and setting the pace for what will be a historical declaration. I give my thanks to the Secretariat of UNEP, led by the Executive Director Ms. Inger Andersen for their continued support in the preparation of this meeting. Your dedication is not taken for granted.

We are gathered here today to address a problem that is complex and multi-faceted, and as such requires the efforts of all stakeholders involved. We have a prime opportunity to find solutions to combat plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

The success of the resumed fifth session of UNEA and UNEP@50 called upon us, pursuant to the resolution 5/14, to converge and negotiate an instrument to combat plastic pollution. This conversation has been happening for a long while, and by that resolution, we are finally on a trajectory to reach the intended course of action.

My delegation reaffirms its support for the formulation of an international legally binding instrument to deal with this problem. We must recall its transboundary nature, and call for the instrument to include elements of technology transfer, support in the means of implementation and considering the life-cycle approach of plastics. It must also consider the chemical composition at the production stage that interferes with some methods of disposal.

As we kick-start our deliberations of the INC through this open-ended working group, I implore all of us to focus on the goal of

developing the instrument. To involve the private and informal sectors, who play a key role in the production of plastics and who deal with the disposal of the end product. If we look at their interconnectedness, it might inform how we approach the solution humanely.

Being the host country of the headquarters of UNEP, Kenya has expressed its interest to host the meetings of the INC, as a way of strengthening the Nairobi station. Furthermore, Kenya is a pioneer in tackling plastic pollution, as evidenced by the government's decision to ban single-use plastic, which has seen a great reduction in environmental pollution. We look forward to stepping up these efforts, this time collectively with other Member States. In that vein, we request that Member States are accorded more time for negotiations, including intersessional meetings that could take the form of ad-hoc open-ended working groups to deliberate on items which require more engagement. We also request the Secretariat to provide timely and clear information to assist Member States in making decisions as required.

I conclude by wishing the meeting successful deliberations. I thank you chair.