



**Kenya's statement during INC-1 on Ending Plastic Pollution: Towards a legally binding instrument held in Uruguay from 28<sup>th</sup> November to 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2022.**

Kenya wishes to thank Uruguay for hosting this 1<sup>st</sup> INC meeting to negotiate the Global legally binding Agreement to eliminate Plastic Pollution including in the marine environment. The hospitality showed by Uruguay including simplifying Visa procedures to enable negotiators to attend this meeting is highly commendable.

During UNEA 5.2 members agreed to commence these negotiations to provide a tool for addressing plastic pollution informed by the full life cycle of plastics. Since then, we met during the OEWG meeting in Dakar Senegal where we guided the Secretariat on the level of preparedness needed to ensure negotiators engaged more effectively. Kenya thanks the Secretariat for developing a number of documents that have been a good guide towards these negotiations.

Plastics pollution presents a threat to human health, climate and biodiversity. This meeting has a rich agenda to deliver. During the informal stakeholders forum convened on 26<sup>th</sup> November, participants acknowledged that addressing plastic pollution remained a major priority whose effective response requires inclusive participation of all stakeholders including plastic producers, scientists, waste service providers, learning institutions, recyclers, landfill operators, artists, waste pickers, civil society organizations among others in order to leverage on existing local knowledge and practices.

An all-inclusive, participatory and consultative approach needs to be adopted and sustained throughout the negotiations process in the spirit of leaving no one behind. Kenya supports the methodology adopted by the secretariat to mainstream stakeholder forums to harness rich knowledge and experiences from all stakeholders.

The plastic pollution issue still remains complex and there is need to harness the rich knowledge of science while negotiating the agreement. Kenya cautions that we need to choose our options carefully and to keep all options open to ensure that innovation and creativity on plastics is allowed to thrive. Let's harness all opportunities while minimizing harm to human health and the environment.

Kenya stresses the need to discuss and develop control measures across the full lifecycle of plastics with international standards to bring transparency and accountability, supported by a robust institutional structure, including a dedicated multilateral fund and scientific body. In addition, the issue of producer responsibility, legacy plastics and downstream waste management should be given special attention for developing countries.

Kenya expects this meeting to sets a good foundation to enable delivery of an effective global plastics agreement. We look forward to reaching consensus quickly on preliminary matters and embark on substantive issues swiftly. The timeline given by the resolution of two years is just adequate if we focus on the real substance of the negotiations with minimal distractions.

Finally, Kenya reiterates that all considerations for institutional establishments including hosting of the Secretariat should build on the intention to strengthen UNEP headquarters in Nairobi.

Mr Chair, Kenya wishes you all the best as you steer this team into effective negotiations.



## **Kenya's Statement for the for the Agenda 4 of the INC-1 in Punta Del Este Uruguay.**

I thank you Chair,

At the onset, Kenya would like to align itself with the Statement made by Ghana on behalf of the African Group.

The Kenyan Delegation would like to thank the Secretariat thus far for the guidance availed to the Committee. At this crucial stage of establishing the scope of the Instrument, Kenya considers two main factors that should guide the arrival and distinction of the scope of the instrument, the **TIME** allocated for the Negotiations and the **SEVERITY** of the global challenge of Plastic Pollution.

### **Excellencies**

Kenya calls for the prioritization of the objectives focusing on protecting human health, biodiversity and the climate from the impacts of plastic pollution.

Evidence shows that harmful substances such as chemical additives have negative impact on human health and therefore a special focus on the upstream phase of the plastics life cycle (where plastic production takes place) should be implemented. However, this should not come at the expense of the focus on the entire life cycle of plastics in the mid-stream and downstream phases.

Kenya, as country in the Global south, fully appreciates and is cognizant of the role that is played by the small and informal stakeholders such as waste pickers in waste management process currently existing at the domestic level and as such calls for the inclusion of a just transition aspect in the development of the legally binding instrument.

Further, Kenya seeks to have an inclusive instrument that shall also address the needs of all stakeholders including the private sector so as to foster ownership of the instrument and enhance a bottom-up approach in the implementation processes and procedures. The need to have an international based standardization of product design and transboundary policy standardization to ensure a favorable policy environment for the private sector should also be highlighted.

Excellencies, a robust and effective monitoring and evaluation framework is another element that the Kenyan Delegation deems imperative for inclusion in the scope of the instrument that shall ensure that the collective responsibility and inclusive interventions from all stakeholders are documented, tracked and evaluated to ensure harmony in implementation of the instrument.

Kenya supports negotiating a plastics treaty in the form of either a specific or framework convention based on the two factors of consideration mentioned earlier of Time allocated and Severity of the specific phase of the plastic life cycle in pollution. The structure that should also reflect specific articles and annexes that are binding to all stakeholders in the entire value chain and life cycle of plastics.

I thank you chair