



## **STATEMENT BY KENYA DURING EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON MARINE LITTER AND MICROPLASTICS**

**Madam Chair,**

Kenya aligns herself with the statement delivered by the Africa Group. I take this opportunity to congratulate you on assuming the chairmanship of the Bureau and commend all members on their election to serve on the Bureau. You can count on my delegations full support during your tenure.

**Madam Chair, distinguished delegates**

Kenya has been engaging with plastics pollution for over 10 years. These engagements could be considered in 3 phases namely the polythene bags ban, PET bottles agreement with private sector and the ban on single use plastics in conservation areas.

Kenya banned polythene bags on 28th February 2017 and has since attained over 80% success. But we have faced challenges with enforcement since some of our neighbors still use polythene bags and the same are illegally imported to Kenya.

The government signed a Framework of Cooperation with the Private Sector to manage plastic PET bottles on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018. This has led to increased investment in plastic recycling and upsurge in volumes of PET bottles recycled. The private sector has developed a plastics action plan to guide their operations.

**Madam Chair, distinguished delegates**

Kenya hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> Global Blue Economy Conference in November 2018 where we reiterated our concerns regarding marine pollution especially emanating from plastics and microplastics. The government is committed to full implementation of the Nairobi statement of intent on Advancing the Global Sustainable Blue Economy.

On 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019, the President of Kenya announced a ban on use of single use plastics in conservation areas such as national parks, forests and beaches. The ban effective date is June 2020. We are working with the private sector on an action plan to implement this ban on single use plastics in conservation areas.

**Madam Chair, distinguished delegates**

Kenya has developed a Solid waste management policy and legislation to support ongoing engagements on plastics. The government strongly advocates for extended producer responsibility

for all wastes including plastics. Regulations on operationalization of EPR aspects are currently being drafted.

The National Treasury has also come up with incentives to promote cleaning of plastics from the environment. The 2019/20 national budget statement prioritized the exemption from VAT for all services offered to plastic recycling plants and supply of machinery and equipment used in the construction of these plants. New investors are enjoying corporate tax reduction from 30% to 15%. These gestures by the Government have the capacity to encourage new investment in plastic recycling plants, create jobs and support environmental conservation.

The outcomes of this meeting will be very useful in upscaling Kenya's interventions in handling pollution by marine litter and microplastics.

**I thank you.**



**KENYA**  
AU ENDORSED CANDIDATE FOR  
UN SECURITY COUNCIL  
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