

STATEMENT BY WORKERS AND TRADE UNION MAJOR GROUP

Open ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics

29th May 2018, Nairobi Kenya

Madam Co Chair

I speak on behalf of Workers and Trade Union Major Group

We support efforts aimed at eliminating the problems associated with marine litter and micro plastics.

However, our main concern as workers is the possibility of the loss of jobs in a sector where thousands of women and youths are currently employed. If consideration is not given to employment we may remove one environmental problem and replace it with another serious social problem.

We therefore would like to call for the application of the principle of **JUST TRANSITION** in our efforts to solve this problem. Concrete measures should put into place to ensure creation of alternative green and decent jobs. A shift to a plastic free world should be based on the principles of social justice and respect of the right of women, youths and others to employment.

I thank you Co Chair.