

# UNEP Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics

## Africa group intervention on agenda 5: Consideration of potential response options pursuant to subparagraph 10 (d) of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 3/7

**Chair, Distinguished delegates,**

The Africa Group wish to thank the AHEG Secretariat for the detailed report on this agenda item. On behalf of the African Group, I would like to raise the following points:

Plastic pollution is a global problem and thus needs a global response. The Africa region submitted its views on this topic during the intersessional period and called for new binding global agreement on plastic pollution, one that takes a comprehensive approach to address the full lifecycle of plastics.

We view that a global response, in this case a global agreement, is needed to enable the success of national initiatives and address the gaps and fragmentation that currently exist at the regional and international levels. Africa has been a leader in tackling the problem of single-use plastics through national bans; however, this has fallen short as plastic pollution continues to be a significant problem in our region due to the transboundary nature of the problem and the solution.

Such a global agreement should include the following elements:

1. **Shared vision:** Building on the zero-vision agreed to in UNEA resolution 3/7, the international community should articulate a clear goal of eliminating all discharge of plastic into the marine and other environments, directly or indirectly, based on the principle of precaution and in

recognition of the devastating impact plastic pollution has on ecosystems and livelihoods. Relatedly, the shared vision should also seek to promote a safe circular economy for plastics.

2. **Reduction targets:** Based on an agreed calculation method, the international community should set a clear and measurable reduction target, to be reached by a certain year. The common reduction target should also be translated into national reduction targets, in an equitable manner, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.
3. **National action plans:** In order to improve long-term planning, provide predictability for businesses and promote transparency, the new global agreement should facilitate the development of national action plans, which would serve as planning tools in efforts to achieve national reduction targets.
4. **Monitoring and reporting:** The new global agreement should provide for agreed definitions, measurement methodologies and reporting formats and timeframes, covering both plastic pollution in the environment and plastic production, use and management at the national and international level in order to measure progress toward a circular economy and the elimination of leakage.
5. **Means of Implementation:** This should include all forms of support needed for tackling marine and land-based plastics and litter including adequate and sustainable financial mechanisms, transfer and development of technology, capacity building and skills development and well equipped monitoring centers.

6. **Scientific body:** A scientific body composed of a balanced geographical and gender representation should be established to assist the international community and the secretariat in generating scientific data and information needed for policy formulation and decision-making in the fight against marine litter and microplastic.

I thank you.