

AFRICAN GROUP STATEMENT ON SEQUENCING

Thank you Mr. Chair,

The Group expects discussions to continue on the critical issues of scope, objectives and structure of the future instrument.

On the lifecycle of plastics, distinct conversations are needed on measures, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, to comprehensively address each stage of the lifecycle, in line with UNEA resolution 5/14.

On this, a reasonable delineation of the lifecycle of plastic may include: (i) sourcing of raw materials; (ii) virgin polymer production and consumption; (iii) product design and use; (iv) waste management and treatment; and (v) plastic in the environment. In addition, and importantly, national reporting should be discussed at each stage to determine the appropriate level of detail and information to determine progress and effectiveness over time.

Similarly, a discussion should concurrently take place on transparency, including "Full knowledge of the ingredients in plastic materials" and "sustainable product design through global sustainability criteria and standards and eliminating harmful chemicals in plastics, ensuring transparency across the value chain."

The INC should have a conversation around the specific plastic pollution sources, including but not limited to, agricultural plastics, packaging, fishing gear and different microplastics, will require bespoke approaches. One can imagine the instrument initiating programmes of work dedicated to those sources of plastic pollution, possibly in tandem with a multistakeholder action agenda.

The means of implementation, to be provided from developed to developing countries should be discussed at each INC, including the financial mechanism and institutional arrangements. Adequate means of implementation through additional and predictable financial assistance provided through a dedicated multilateral fund established for that purpose, as well as capacity-building and technical assistance, including technology transfer and deployment. Similarly enabling activities including institutional strengthening, capacity building and training, reporting and monitoring, policy development and implementation, agreed incremental costs and pilot and demonstration projects, reflecting on existing financing models such as the Montreal Protocol should be discussed. In addition, for waste management, negotiations should concentrate on how, through national action plans and concessional financing, environmentally sound management of plastic waste can become sustainable, including through extended producer responsibility schemes.

On control measures, discussions should take place with a reflection on measures in similar multilateral environmental agreements, such as the Montreal Protocol.

Africa would like to join other countries in insisting that there be no more than two contact groups in parallel. One proposal would be to have one contact group on substantive measures and another on procedures. In this context, Africa would like to stress the importance of the Secretariat providing financial support for the participation of at least two representatives per delegation.