

**Statement of the State of Eritrea at the First Intergovernmental
Negotiating Committee to Develop International Legally Binding
Instrument on plastic pollution, including in the Marine
Environment**

28 November 2022

Punta del Este, Uruguay

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

All protocol observed

Please allow me to thank the people and government of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay for hosting this meeting.

I also would like to thank INC Secretariat for the assiduous work it has done to make this session happen.

Let me also congratulate the governments of Peru and Ecuador for their election as subsequent chairs of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee.

Excellencies,

Eritrea aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Africa Group.

As we commence negotiations to forge an international legally binding instrument that governs our patterns of production, consumption and

management of plastic waste, I feel proud to inform you that this year marks the twentieth year of official banning of single-use plastics in Eritrea.

In the last twenty years, Eritrea has achieved commendable results in greatly reducing single-use plastics. In the process, we learned that without coordinated and concerted global actions, national efforts to tackle plastic pollution are incomplete, if not impossible. Therefore, this gap has effectively necessitated our gathering here in Punta del Este to find a way to curb plastic pollution at global level.

Excellencies,

Eritrea will remain committed to fight plastic pollution. Nevertheless, all measures related to plastic reduction and circulation as well as management of plastic waste requires readily available finance, technology transfer and capacity building. This entails that all rounds of INC negotiations need to give particular attention to the issue of means of implementation so that we can have a successful transition from plastic polluted world to a clean and sustainable environment.

I thank you!