#Statement on: 8 Bis On the Health aspects:

The African Group strongly welcomes the inclusion of a provision addressing the Protection of Vulnerable Populations within the instrument. We believe this is essential to safeguard the health and well-being of communities disproportionately impacted by plastic pollution.

We particularly commend the focus on:

- Identifying and protecting populations at risk, especially those in vulnerable situations. This targeted approach ensures those most in need receive essential support.

To further strengthen this provision, the African Group emphasizes the importance of:

- Science-based educational and preventive strategies: By grounding our efforts in sound science, we can develop effective interventions to protect communities.
- Promotion of appropriate healthcare for prevention and treatment: Access to healthcare is crucial for addressing the health consequences of plastic pollution.
- Developed institutional and health professional capacities: Equipping institutions and healthcare professionals with the necessary expertise will enhance their ability to support affected communities.

Regarding subsection d, Paragraph 1, the African Group suggests revising the reference to "in particular microplastics and related issues." We believe this language may be premature given ongoing negotiations in CG1. We propose using a more general term like "various plastic pollutants" to encompass the broader range of potential health risks.

The African Group remains committed to working collaboratively to create a robust provision that effectively safeguards the health and well-being of vulnerable populations.