AFRICA GROUP PROPOSALS FOR INTERSESSIONAL WORK PRIOR TO INC5

Mr. Chair,

The African Group, underscores the need for intersessional work before INC5 and looks forward to a mandate for intersessional work as one of the outcomes from this meeting.

Such intersessional work should focus on the following areas:

1. Criteria for identification and listing of chemicals and polymers of concern;
2. Criteria for identification and listing of problematic and avoidable plastic products;
3. Criteria for exemptions applicable to chemicals and polymers of concern, problematic and avoidable plastics and, sector specific applications currently covered under the proposed provisions on ‘scope’ of the instrument in the streamlined text;
4. The modalities for the financing mechanism, considering that the Africa Group strongly supports the establishment of a new, dedicated financing mechanism for the instrument;
5. Product design and performance, including criteria and approaches to promote circularity;
6. Transparency, tracking, monitoring and labelling, particularly in regard to tracking of chemicals used in production of plastics and approaches and minimum requirements for information disclosure; and,
7. Compilation of key relevant definitions to be used in the context of the instrument

On the proposed approach for intersessional work, the Africa Group calls for an open-ended intersessional process. However, the group is flexible to an approach that allows for the participation of key partners. This will facilitate the achievement of a successful negotiation outcome, and secure broad acceptance of the outcomes of the process, thus avoiding any further delays in reaching an agreement on the instrument.

The Africa Group looks forward to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee providing a clear way forward on intersessional work and agreement on how the outcomes from the process shall be integrated in the negotiation process during INC5.

We look forward to participating actively in this process.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.