



## **AFRICAN GROUP OF NEGOTIATORS**

### **Article 17 – Information exchange**

**Thank you, co-chairs,**

The African Group supports the principle of robust information exchange as a core function of this Convention. We believe a well-defined and equitable framework for information exchange is essential to build a foundation of trust and transparency among all Parties.

In this regard, we wish to focus our intervention on paragraph 5. While we agree with the need to handle confidential information appropriately, we believe the text must also be explicit about the rights of knowledge holders and the non-confidential nature of public health and safety information.

We therefore propose that paragraph 5 be replaced with the following text:

"For the purposes of this Convention, Parties exchanging information pursuant to this Convention shall protect any confidential information as mutually agreed and any relevant traditional knowledge in line with the free, prior and informed consent of the holders of such knowledge. For the purposes of this Convention, information on health and safety of humans and the environment shall not be regarded as confidential."

This revised formulation achieves two critical objectives. First, it ensures that traditional knowledge and the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities are respected in a manner consistent with the principle of free, prior and informed consent. Second, it makes an unequivocal statement that information related to human and environmental health and safety is a public good and cannot be withheld.

We believe this language is vital to ensure that the exchange of information under this Convention is both effective and serves to protect the public interest.

**Thank you.**