



AFRICAN GROUP OF NEGOTIATORS

Article 16 – Effectiveness evaluation - Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe, on behalf of the African Group, wishes to draw attention to Article 16 on Effectiveness Evaluation. We emphasize that requiring harmonized monitoring of plastic pollution and its effects on human health and the environment is fundamental to establishing baselines and accurately assessing the treaty's effectiveness.

We note that the current draft of Article 16 on Effectiveness Evaluation and Monitoring excludes a dedicated provision for harmonized monitoring, which was a critical component of the Compiled draft text under Article 4. We wish to re-introduce this crucial element and therefore propose the addition of a new paragraph, which would read as follows:

The Conference of the Parties shall, at its first meeting, establish programmes to assess and monitor emissions and releases of plastic into the environment. This should include:

Establishment of baseline information on the types and volumes of existing plastic pollution in the environment;

Periodically collecting data and information on the types and levels of plastic pollution in the environment;

Modelling to understand the movement of plastics in air, soil, water, and ecosystems;

The effects of plastic pollution on the environment.

Secondly, on paragraph 1, we believe the timeframe for the first evaluation is a critical factor in ensuring the Convention is agile and responsive to the urgency of the plastic pollution crisis. We propose to replace the period of six years with four years. The six-year timeframe, as modeled by the Minamata Convention, has unfortunately contributed to delayed enforcement and would be ineffective in addressing the scale and speed of plastic pollution. A four-year cycle will ensure more timely evaluations and necessary adjustments to the Convention's implementation.

Third, we wish to streamline paragraph 2 and remove the specific list of information sources, as we believe it is sufficient for the evaluation to be conducted on the basis of available scientific, environmental, technical, financial, and socio-economic information. This provides the necessary flexibility for the Conference of the Parties to consider all relevant data without being restricted by a prescriptive list.

Finally, we stress that for this monitoring and evaluation to be effective, special attention and dedicated resources must be given to developing countries, including the special circumstances of Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries. This is essential for building the technical capacity required to conduct such monitoring.

We also believe that a science-policy interface drawing on independent and robust scientific knowledge could play a key role in supporting these harmonized monitoring efforts and contributing to the periodic assessments.

Thank you for your attention.