

Chair,

On behalf of the African Group of Negotiators, we reaffirm our strong commitment to advancing sustainable product design as a critical element in addressing the environmental challenges associated with plastic pollution. We recognize that a fundamental shift is needed in how products are designed, produced, and circulated. To this end, we are committed to promoting product design that eliminates problematic products, hazardous chemicals, and applications of concern, in full alignment with sustainability criteria and standards to be developed and agreed upon under this instrument.

In this spirit, we express our agreement to retain the Chair's proposed text on Article 5, with minor yet important amendments that strengthen the clarity and ambition of

our collective objectives. We also wish to emphasize three key principles that are central to effective implementation:

1. Transparency, Information Disclosure, and Traceability

2. Support for Toxic-free Reuse Systems - there is a need in the chair's text to clearly separate reuse from recycling to follow the waste hierarchy and avoid confusion in the order of priority of design principles;

3. Access to Product Information

Lastly, we Require Paragraph 2. guidance to be issued by the second COP, to avoid undue delays.

Thank you Chair!