

AGN Opening Statement (in case needed)

Mr. Chair

Your Excellencies

INC Secretariat

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

1. I deliver this statement on behalf of the Africa Group of Negotiators.
2. At the outset, we would like to thank the Government of Switzerland for hosting us in Geneva. We also thank the INC-Secretariat for organizing this resumed session.

Distinguished Delegates,

3. We, the Africa region, reaffirm our common ambition to end plastic pollution through a **legally binding global treaty** that protects **human health and the environment**. The treaty must include measures that address **plastics across their full lifecycle** as mandated by [UNEA resolution 5/14](#), adopted by consensus at UNEA-5.2, in March 2022, in Nairobi, Kenya and [AMCEN decision 19/2](#), also adopted by consensus at AMCEN-19, in August 2023 at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
4. **Africa Did Not Start it, but Can End it.**
5. African countries are coming to this treaty with more than words; we are bringing economic stakes to the table. Many of our nations are being asked to reconsider industrial strategies, retool trade agreements, and forgo investment in sectors that others once used to build their prosperity. We are willing to make those sacrifices, not because it is easy or without cost, but because we believe a livable planet and healthy people are non-negotiable. What message does it send when the continent least responsible is most prepared to act? If this process is to be credible, it must reflect courage, not convenience.
6. Ambition alone is not enough—it must be backed by the necessary resources. A robust and enforceable framework for **means of implementation** is not optional; it is essential. Only when **ambitious, binding obligations** to end plastic pollution are matched with **equally strong commitments to deliver financial support** can we achieve real and lasting impact.

7. Binding commitments to end plastic pollution must be accompanied by **clear obligations to provide multilateral finance**—finance that is **adequate, stable, accessible, and predictable**. Without this, African countries will not be able to implement the treaty at scale, protect vulnerable communities, or transition to sustainable production and consumption systems.
8. **A just transition for Africa** means ensuring that local economies, informal workers, and waste-pickers are supported, that technologies are appropriate and inclusive, and that implementation efforts are not delayed by lack of capacity or funding.
9. In committing to ambitious action under this treaty—even where our contributions to the problem are limited— Africa is offering leadership and demanding justice. It is time the rest of the world meets us there.
10. Africa is prepared to act in unity and in purpose. We call on all Parties to meet this spirit with the same long-term vision, not just for their nations, but for the generations this treaty must serve.