



INC 5.2 Statement of: the Association of Uganda Professional Women in Agriculture and Environment (AUPWAE)

Submitted by: Anna Odur

Thank you very much Chair. AUPWAE welcomes ongoing deliberations by distinguished delegates during INC-5.2. We call for intentional expansion of observer participation during these negotiations, owing to the wealth of experience that civil society and other stakeholder groups bring to the table. Our ongoing experience at grassroots level ensures that the voices and needs of local populations are taken into account.

The priorities of AUPWAE are as follows:

On Article 7: Releases and leakages. We call for robust textual language and a reflection of strong commitment and cooperation from member states, in addressing releases and leakages of plastics into the environment including microplastics accumulation in agricultural soils, so as to ensure food safety and to protect human health and the environment. As outlined by IPEN, we support provisions to ensure access to information on the types and quantities of pollutants emitted or released at each stage of the plastic lifecycle.

On Article 8: Plastic Waste Management. We call on distinguished delegates to address current existing global barriers to effective safe handling, sorting, collection, transportation, storage and disposal of waste among others. These include wrong perceptions and limited awareness of the dangers of toxic chemicals in plastics. Public sensitization campaigns and dissemination of translated education and communication materials should therefore be prioritized.

We very much welcome the reference to prohibition of open burning of waste in the Chair's text and the Africa Group's regional roadmap to ending this detrimental practice. As mentioned, barriers to policy support should be well understood and addressed so that there is ownership, buy-in and overall commitment to comply with the localization and implementation of the future global plastic treaty.

On Article 10: Just transition. We support the promotion of a just transition for plastic waste management workers, especially waste pickers and other informal workers, including women, youth and small and artisanal fishers.

On Article 9: Existing plastic pollution. We welcome provisions in the Chair's text for environmentally sound removal measures for existing plastic pollution. This ensures justice is served for affected communities through remediation and 'care for the environment', a faith-based approach for environmental management that encompasses a focus on values, engagement, inclusivity and hope for all, leaving no one behind.

We remain available for consultations during INC-5.2. We wish all distinguished delegates and colleagues fruitful and successful negotiations in the days ahead.

Thank you very much