#Statement on: 7. Awareness-raising, education and research [and development]

The African Group prioritizes a concise provision on Awareness-raising, Education, and Research that fosters collaboration and knowledge exchange.

Streamlined Option 1: We support streamlining Paragraph 1 of Option 1 to ensure clarity and efficiency. This streamlined provision should emphasize the importance of regional and international cooperation through existing bodies and networks.

National Actions: We believe countries should undertake specific measures to raise awareness about the instrument’s objectives. These measures could include:

- Promoting public participation and access to information.
- Providing training programs at the national level.

Research and Development: Recognizing the critical role of scientific advancement, the African Group strongly supports including Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Option 2. These paragraphs highlight the need to:

- Advance scientific and technological research, development, and innovation relevant to the instrument’s goals.
- Promote and undertake such research, development, and information exchange at national, regional, and international levels through cooperation.

By prioritizing both national actions and collaborative research efforts, the African Group believes we can effectively raise awareness, educate stakeholders, and drive innovation to achieve the instrument’s objectives.