Closing Remarks of the State of Eritrea at the Fourth Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to Develop an International Legally Binding Instrument on plastic pollution, including in the Marine Environment

29 April 2024
Ottawa, Canada

Thank you, Mr. Chair for giving me the floor.

As this is our first time to take the floor in the plenary, we would like to thank the people and government of Canada for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangement of this important meeting. We also appreciate the work of the Chair, the Bureau and the INC Secretariat.

Eritrea aligns itself with the closing statement delivered by the distinguished delegate of Ghana on behalf of the African Group.

We understand the importance of addressing plastic pollution across the full lifecycle of plastics. Eritrea, as a pioneer state in adopting and implementing regulatory instrument against the use of single-use plastic since 2004, remains committed to work towards developing the global instrument.

The fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee has negotiated substantive matters extensively. The Session has identified areas of convergence and areas of divergence. The exercise, however, is by no means exhaustive. We acknowledge that we still have to work to further identify areas of convergence while consolidating the identified ones.

With the healthy atmosphere and constructive engagement that we witnessed in Ottawa, my delegation has the confidence that a global instrument that takes the views and concerns of all member states is around the corner.

Mr. Chair

We welcome the agreement on the proposed open-ended intersessional work. We believe that this will help maintain the momentum and create a room for additional technical work.
We agree that a hybrid financial mechanism can work better in implementing the objectives of the future instrument. We are flexible on the question of whether to utilize the existing Funds or establishing a new Fund on the condition that the two alternatives guarantee that the finance for plastic pollution is dedicated, new and additional, adequate, predictable, accessible and sustainable.

We also understand that capacity building, technical cooperation and technology transfer plays critical role in implementing the objectives of the future instrument.

I thank you, Chair.