Extended Producer Responsibility

Kenya supports the African position as submitted by Nigeria regarding the implementation of mandatory EPR schemes within national jurisdictions aimed at enhancing producer accountability throughout the lifecycle of plastics. Kenya emphasizes the necessity for these EPR systems to adhere to the waste hierarchy, prioritizing waste prevention and reduction.

Kenya is already implementing EPR schemes for all plastics both packaging and non packaging and have crucial lessons to share. EPR gives producers an opportunity to demonstrate responsible business practices to assure a clean and healthy environment. At the moment, plastic producers meet regularly with value chain actors including waste pickers to determine their compensation and working conditions and hence has made a great contribution in enhancing green jobs and just transition.

Kenya notes that even if EPR national schemes worked very well, there still remains a gap as there will still be leakage into international waters especially during floods and through tourism and parties need to cooperate regionally and globally to tackle any unintentional leakages.

Furthermore, Kenya emphasizes its vulnerability to waste dumping and the limited capacity of developing countries to manage their waste and therefore advocates for global EPR obligations to be enforced including through cooperation mechanisms. Such obligations should be imposed on producers along international supply chains, with sector specific considerations as necessary, to ensure harmonization of producer responsibilities and collection infrastructure requirements.

Kenya requests an expansion of the text to include integration of all value chain players including waste pickers, transporters and recyclers and all aspects of just transition.

Kenya recommends for establishment of an expert team during intersessional period to develop modalities for implementation of EPR, targets and reporting, considering national circumstances.

29th April 2024