

Statement of the Federal Republic of Somalia
At the Fifth Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to Develop an International
Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution
December 2024, Busan, South Korea

Mr. Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Federal Republic of Somalia, we extend our profound gratitude to UNEP, the INC Secretariat, and the Government of South Korea for hosting this critical meeting. We align with the positions of both the African Group and the Arab Group, reaffirming our shared commitment to the development of a bold, equitable, and legally binding instrument to combat plastic pollution.

Somalia commends the ambition demonstrated in Non-Paper 3, particularly its comprehensive approach to addressing the full lifecycle of plastics. We welcome its emphasis on robust financial mechanisms, capacity building, and inclusive governance as essential pillars for achieving our shared goals.

As the nation with the longest coastline in continental Africa, Somalia faces disproportionate challenges due to plastic pollution. This issue poses significant risks to our marine ecosystems and the livelihoods of coastal communities. In response, Somalia has taken decisive action, including implementing a nationwide ban on single-use plastics under the leadership of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change. However, tackling plastic pollution requires a unified global effort.

We strongly believe this treaty must reflect equity and ambition, particularly by addressing the unique challenges faced by vulnerable nations like Somalia. To this end, we urge the committee to:

1. **Establish robust financial mechanisms** to ensure grant-based support for least developed and vulnerable nations.
2. **Enhance international cooperation** to address transboundary and legacy plastic pollution that exacerbates the challenges for nations like Somalia.
3. **Provide scaled financial and technical assistance** to support national efforts, such as Somalia's ban on single-use plastics and other innovative solutions.
4. **Prioritize inclusive governance, capacity building, and technology transfer** to empower all nations with sustainable, long-term solutions to plastic pollution.

This treaty presents a historic opportunity to protect our planet, safeguard marine ecosystems, and support vulnerable communities. Somalia stands ready to collaborate constructively with all parties to deliver an ambitious and implementable framework that ensures a sustainable, plastic-free future for generations to come.

Thank you.