

## **INC 5.2 Statement-Malawi Government**

**Chairperson,**

**Honourable Ministers,**

**Excellences and distinguished delegates,**

Malawi wishes to express its profound gratitude to the Government of Switzerland for the warm hospitality and for providing a conducive environment for the convening of this important session of the second part of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC-5.2). We also commend the INC Secretariat, under the auspices of UNEP, for the meticulous preparatory work and effective coordination that has enabled us to gather here to advance negotiations toward a global legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment

Malawi agrees with the global community that we are at a pivotal moment in the negotiations and we must prioritise measures that will have the greatest impact in addressing the harmful effects of plastic pollution. Malawi believes that these measures include, first and foremost, **eliminating and reducing** the most problematic, harmful and high-risk categories of plastic. In this regard, we emphasise the necessity of common, global, legally binding rules, acknowledging that purely voluntary measures have been and remain inadequate for addressing the plastic pollution crisis.

Malawi remains committed to promoting **a non-toxic circular economy**, which follows the waste hierarchy. We would like to highlight that legally binding rules, alongside economic tools, serve the purpose of driving the private sector to scale and speed up reliable investments in sustainability.

Furthermore, harmonized product design requirements, bans on single-use plastics – in favour of scaling up reuse promotion of adoption of alternatives – and mandatory extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes are crucial to achieving a circular economy. Such measures can create equal opportunity across all markets and drive innovation on circular solutions.

It is incumbent upon us to establish an **environmentally sound waste management system**, considering the sobering reality that 62% of the world's waste is disposed of through open dumping. Minimum requirements on waste management can reduce the level of plastic leakage into the environment, bringing us closer to the goal of addressing this planetary crisis.

In addition to ensuring strong control measures, the effectiveness of this treaty will hinge upon adequate **Means of implementation**. We therefore underscore

the importance of a robust and accessible financial mechanism, capacity-building initiatives, research and technology transfer, and enhanced international cooperation, particularly in support of developing countries.

In conclusion, Malawi advocates for an ambitious, legally binding treaty that effectively addresses the plastic pollution crisis across its full life cycle. Such a treaty must include mandatory obligations while upholding the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, as well as the polluter pays principle. Malawi reaffirms its commitment to the objectives of UNEA Resolution 5/14, aimed at protecting human health and the environment from plastic pollution. As we proceed with our deliberations, we urge all Member States to remain guided by our shared resolve and to galvanise support around the core elements that will enable us to fulfil the mandate entrusted to this Committee.

**I Thank You.**