Republic of Kenya

Statement by Kenya during the second plenary of INC-4 on 27th April, 2024, Ottawa, Canada

Process

1. Thank you chair for convening this second plenary meeting to review the state of negotiations. Kenya aligns this statement to the African Group statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Ghana.

2. Kenya believes the negotiations have covered considerable grounds, and that appetite is growing for tangible outcomes from this session.

3. We therefore appreciate the efforts the co-facilitators, the contact group chairs, and the sub-group leads have made in moving the process forward. We assure you of our continued full support.

4. On the process, Kenya supports the statement by Ghana which has been echoed by other delegations concerning the parallel meetings which are working to the disadvantage of the smaller delegations.

5. We urge you chair to come up with innovative ways that ensure openness, inclusivity and effective participation of all delegates.

Substantive Matters

Mr. Chair,

1. Kenya prioritizes the development and implementation of national strategic plans that address all phases of the plastic lifecycle, with the ultimate goal of zero plastic.

2. We support circular economy principles including standards for action for eliminating waste, keeping products and materials in use and regenerating natural systems.

3. Strong regulatory systems backed by capacity building and transfer of environmentally sound technologies are indispensable if we are to achieve the very objectives and goals we are seeking under this treaty.
4. Equally, financing is at the core for the success of the treaty. We support the establishment of a dedicated and predictable multilateral funding. We believe, access to the fund should reflect local contexts and priorities.

5. The youth, the private sector and the civil society are very crucial towards the fight against plastic pollution. The treaty should provide an ecosystem and incentives that enhance the capacity of the youth in driving change through initiatives and novel ideas while harnessing the expanding power of technology.

6. Promoting sustainable plastics management practices, investing in research and providing access to technology and capacity building are essential.

7. Trade policies should accelerate the transition from a linear to a circular economy model for plastics with businesses playing their part in plastic footprints from their products and supply chains. The EPRs should encompass the full range of product lifecycle costs, including their end of life.

8. The proposed treaty aims to help us tackle cross-cutting challenges posed by plastic pollution; from chemicals to biodiversity and nature. Therefore, Kenya proposes a placeholder for a standalone biodiversity sub-heading.

9. We recognize that time is of essence and we may not have an opportunity to discuss this important matter during this session. We therefore propose that it should be included in the agenda for discussions in the intersessional period.

10. Finally Chair, Kenya believes that the matter under discussion is significant both in scale and urgency. It needs commensurate consideration. The treaty we are seeking must therefore have its own character, life, profile and visibility. It should not be perceived as an appendage of any existing treaty (ies).

Thank you Chair