Non Plastic Substitutes

Kenya aligns with the African position as read by Angola. Kenya supports the inclusion of the provision on non plastic substitutes as we believe it enhances the merit of this instrument to not only tackle plastic pollution but provide an environment for innovation and research into safe and environmental sound alternatives.

Kenya banned the use of plastic bags in 2017 and still face challenges getting substitutes to date. Some of the substitute options that cropped up included clothing and natural fibres. Upscaling these innovations was weak due to lack of standards and high cost of items. Other options such as biodegradable bags and oxoplastics were also used but it was not easy to assure their authenticity and safety. The cheaper option was use of non-woven plastic bags, which is now a serious pollution menace.

Kenya therefore supports option 1 as a basis of negotiation and emphasizes the need to rely on the best available science and traditional knowledge systems to ensure that products do not have an equally or greater detrimental effect on human health and the environment. A full life cycle assessment of these products must be conducted.

Mobilization of financial resources, technological transfer and international cooperation should be emphasized to assist developing countries in the realization of this provision.

29th April 2024