

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

P.O.BOX : 3502, KIGALI

Rwanda Statement on intersession work

Thank Chair you for your proposal on intersessional work, however it is missing one critical element.

Rwanda and Peru submitted a conference room paper calling for a compilation report of scientific and technical information on sustainable levels of consumption and production of primary plastic polymers, and an open-ended working group to consider options for primary plastic polymers including the implication of no option.

Dear Chair,

Sixty-five members of the High Ambition Coalition support the view that “ending plastic pollution requires an ambitious and effective, international legally binding instrument that is comprehensive in scope, and addresses the full life cycle of plastics - **including primary plastic polymers.**”

But we also recognize this is an issue characterized by divergent views.

Despite this, we believe that we all share that there is at least convergence on the desire to develop an instrument that is fit for purpose, guided by science.

And to do so, the question we must ask and answer is: what are sustainable levels of production and consumption?

This clearly aligns with the scope of UNEA Resolution 5/14 and our mandate throughout the INC process.

And exploring the scientific and technical aspects of this question is clearly without prejudice to any policy positions or options. But it must be explored.

The science tells us that current and projected levels of plastic consumption and production are unsustainable and far exceed our waste management and recycling capacities.

Moreover, these levels of production are also inconsistent with the goal of ending plastic pollution and limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees.

We need to make progress on this topic in the lead up to INC-5, and hope that you will consider our request.

Thank you.