Kenya’s statement on Waste Management

Kenya aligns itself with the option 1 position of the African Group and once again emphasizes the need to focus on the waste hierarchy when addressing waste management. This provision must ensure that waste is managed in a safe and environmentally sound throughout the life cycle of plastics and waste management should focus on reduction of plastic waste generation through production reduction.

It is further important that this provision does not lock in on technologies that lead to emissions and further spread of toxic chemicals across all ecosystems. Kenya therefore does not support the inclusion of language on energy recovery within this provision unless it involves only residual waste after recovery of all valuables. Hence Kenya welcomes the common provision to not allow waste management practices that may lead to emissions and releases of hazardous substances.

Kenya further supports the inclusion of minimum requirements for safe and environmentally sound management of waste and further reiterates the importance of the establishment of Extended Producer Responsibility on the achievement of the same.

Kenya firmly asserts that it is imperative that waste management occurs at a national level, yet also necessitate global collaboration due to the transboundary nature of plastic pollution across borders.

In realizing the provision on waste management, nations must prioritize adherence to the principle of a just transition, with a specific emphasis on the plight of Waste Pickers. It is incumbent upon countries to ensure that as they develop their waste management systems and transition towards a circular economy, no individual is left behind.

These efforts and measures taken to implement the provisions of this article should be contained in the national plan including waste management measures used to achieve a just transition.

26th April 2024