AFRICA REGION STATEMENT UNDER AGENDA ITEM 4

INC 3, NAIROBI, KENYA

Mr. Chair

Your excellences

Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen

1. It is a great honor for me to deliver this statement on behalf of fifty-four countries of the Africa Region member states.

2. The Africa group wishes to extend sincere gratitude to UNEP, the People, and the Government of Kenya for hosting the third Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-3) meeting in Nairobi.

3. We congratulate the INC Chair, the Bureau and the INC secretariat for the successful organization of the meeting. We have confidence in your able and collective leadership and we look forward to a continued collaboration.

4. We also wish to thank you Chair, for the Zero-draft text of the instrument which provided Africa, under the leadership of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), the opportunity to reflect and deliberate on plastic pollution.

5. As a region, we embrace a comprehensive life-cycle approach to prevent plastic pollution.

6. **On Chemicals, polymers and problematic plastics:** the Africa group calls for sustainable consumption and production of primary plastic and eliminating specific problematic polymers, chemicals, products and applications of concern.

7. Africa calls for measures for full transparency and information disclosure along the entire plastic value chain.

8. **On the Just Transition:** Africa acknowledges that implementing the future instrument may lead to job and livelihood losses, as well as other socio-economic impacts along the plastic value chain. Therefore, as Africa group, we call for this instrument to take into account the national circumstances and ensure a fair, equitable, and inclusive transition, for affected populations, with special consideration for people in vulnerable situations, especially women, children, youth and waste pickers.

9. **On Waste Management and Legacy Plastic Pollution:** the Africa group calls for an instrument that operationalizes the waste hierarchy by prioritizing waste prevention and reduction before recycling and management. We further call for effective measures that ensure environmentally sound waste management.
practices at different stages namely: handling, collection, transportation, storage, recycling, and final disposal. The instrument should include effective measures to ensure clean-up and remediation of legacy pollution in all environments.

10. **On the Financing mechanism, Chair:** the Africa group stresses the need for a new dedicated Multilateral Fund to provide the necessary, predictable, sustainable, and adequate financial resources for countries in need to meet their commitments under the future instrument. The Multilateral Fund should be the vehicle for providing financial assistance to recipient countries, on a grant basis, for enabling activities, and the incremental costs.

11. **On Capacity building/development and infrastructure:** the Africa group wishes to emphasize the need of advanced infrastructures and institutional capacity building and development for African countries to effectively implement the future treaty.

12. **On Research, innovation, awareness, and education:** the Africa group calls for an instrument that facilitates information and knowledge exchange, international cooperation and coordinating best available science on sustainable consumption and production, research and technologies, and indigenous knowledge.

13. **On Private Sector and Stakeholder Engagement:** Africa group encourages parties to promote actions that will stimulate public-private sector partnerships and private sector investments in circular economy approaches along the plastics value chain. Stakeholder Engagement is key to fostering an environment for building collective and innovative solutions to combat plastic pollution.

14. The Africa group calls for the future instrument to take into account the **Bamako Convention** prohibiting the transboundary movement of hazardous waste in Africa.

15. On the synthesis report and outcomes of the preparatory meeting, the African Group calls on the members to reflect on the UNEA resolution 5/14 which calls for ending plastic pollution, including in the marine environment and protecting human health and the environment, and emphasize the application of the relevant Rio principles within the provisions of the instrument.

16. Furthermore, the Africa group wishes to thank the Chair and the Secretariat once again for the zero-draft text, the synthesis report and the report on the preparatory meeting, and looks forward to constructive discussions that will lead us to the first draft text of the instrument for consideration at the fourth session of the Committee.
17. We look forward to adopting clear mandates and timelines for intersessional work required for the fourth and fifth sessions to move us all closer to an ambitious legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution.

18. Finally, Mr. Chair, the Africa Group requests member states to support the hosting of the Secretariat of the future instrument at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme in Kenya.

**I THANK YOU!**