NAME OF COUNTRY
(For Members of the Committee)
Kenya

NAME OF ORGANIZATION
(For Observers to the Committee)
African Alliance for Health Research Economic Development

CONTACT PERSON AND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE SUBMISSION
Mr. Francis Kevogo Keya

DATE OF SUBMISSION
19/7/2023

Input on the potential areas of intersessional work to inform the work of INC-3 (following the lists compiled by the co-facilitators of the two contact groups)

Potential areas for intersessional work

The list of potential areas for possible intersessional work compiled by the co-facilitators of the two contact groups at INC-2 is set out below. Members and observers may wish to provide input on one or more of these areas.

Contact group 1:

1. Information on definitions of, e.g. plastics, microplastics, circularity
2. Information on criteria, also considering different applications and sectoral requirements, including:
   a. Chemical substances of concern in plastics,
   b. Problematic and avoidable plastic polymers and products and related applications
   c. Design e.g. for circularity, reuse
   d. Substitutes and alternatives to plastic polymers and products
3. Potential substances of concern in plastics, problematic and avoidable plastic polymers and products
4. Potential sources of release of microplastics (applications and sectors).

(Please note: A longer list is included in the co-facilitators report on discussions in contact group 1. Submissions may also include input on any of the items in that longer list, such as, amongst others, the development of criteria to prioritise problematic and avoidable plastics; the development of targets for the reduction, reuse and repair of problematic and avoidable plastic products; or the guidelines on EPR)

Contact Group 2:

1. To consider the potential role, responsibilities and composition of a science and technical body [to support negotiation and/or implementation of the agreement]
2. To consider potential scope of and guidance for National Action Plans [including optional and/or suggested elements]
3. To identify current provisions within existing MEAs [and other instruments] on cooperation and coordination that could be considered
4. To consider how other MEAs provide for monitoring, and suggest best practice
5. To consider options to define ‘technology transfer on mutually agreed terms’
6. To further consider how a potential financing mechanism could work [including a new standalone mechanism, a hybrid mechanism, or an existing mechanism]
7. To identify options to mobilize and align private and innovative finance (including in relation to matters at 24(e) and the proposed Global Plastic Pollution Fee (GPPF))
8. To map current funding and finance available [to address plastic pollution] and determine the need for financial support for each Member
9. To identify capacity building and training needs for each Member.

AFRICAN ALLIANCE FOR HEALTH RESEARCH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MY INPUT.

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The transition to a circular economy has gained global momentum, and Kenya is starting to embrace this concept, led by the private sector and government policy frameworks. Plastic waste poses a significant environmental challenge in Kenya, with only 8% of collected plastics being recycled. This study examines the policy, legislative frameworks, and technological gaps along the plastic value chain in the transition to a circular economy. The plastic value chain encompasses design, production, product use, disposal, segregation/sorting, collection, reuse, and recycling. The findings reveal that existing waste management policies in Kenya are fragmented and fail to fully address the entire plastic value chain. Regulations such as the Environmental Management Coordination Act (EMCA) focus solely on plastic flat bags, neglecting other plastic categories. Counties, responsible for waste management, are also lacking in relevant laws and policies. Technological advancements in plastic circularity are limited, primarily focused on sorting and recycling processes. Recommendations include harmonizing existing waste management policies to address plastic circularity, expediting the development of plastic circular economy policies, and promoting county-level legislation aligned with the National Sustainable Waste Management Act 2022. Reintroducing incentives for plastic recycling, such as tax exemptions on imported technologies and equipment.
A plastic is one of best innovations that humankind has had in the recent past. They are everywhere: in our food packaging, our clothes, and the floors of houses, the plumbing of our homes, our paints, our cosmetics and even our tea bags. We wanted a material that is durable, affordable, inert and versatile, we got it in plastics.

About 3 billion tons of plastics have been produced globally from 1950 to 2016, which is the equivalent to 4 tons of plastics per second! 60% of this production ends up as waste (only 9% was recycled) with about 5 billion tons of plastic waste resting somewhere in the environment.

The major issue with plastics comes precisely from their durability: they never biodegrade. Their persistence in the environment results in biodiversity loss, habitat destruction and climate change. The additives added to plastic polymers and pollutants that also absorb on plastic such as pesticides, hydrocarbons, and heavy metals all form an explosive cocktail condensed in the plastic fragments that are easily ingested but deadly.

AAHRED conducts research along the entire plastic value chain to quantify the amounts leaking into the environment, identify hot spot areas of accumulation and determine their impacts on ecosystems’ structure and functioning. AAHRED is also involved in technology development in reducing ghost fishing by lost fishing nets and the development of taka connect to promote trading in plastic and plastic circularity. Plastic impacts and the need to embrace a plastic circular concept form a key aspect of AAHRED awareness and education program on plastic. Plastic waste and plastic the resource. We have partnered with UNEP, PACJA, SUSAN SAVE LIVES, CLIMATE BANK and NEMA . to build regional capacity on marine litter monitoring

Am ready to contribute my input during the upcoming conference on plastic in Nov 2023 at UNEP GIGIRI Nairobi.