Statement of the State of Eritrea at the Second
Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to Develop
International Legally Binding Instrument on plastic pollution,
including in the Marine Environment
29 May 2023

Paris, France

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
All protocol observed,

Allow me to thank the people and government of the Republic of France for hosting the second session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop International Legally Binding Instrument on plastic pollution, including in the Marine Environment.

I also would like to thank the INC Secretariat for the diligent work that brought this session to fruition.

Excellencies,

As we continue negotiations to forge an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, it is worth noting that twenty years ago, the government of Eritrea took the initiative to control plastic pollution and banned single-use plastic bags among other voluntary measures. However, the experiences learned affirm that controlling upstream production is principal for successfully reducing and eliminating plastic pollution.

In this instrument, harmonized global binding measures to eliminate single-use and other high-risk plastic categories, including polymers, chemicals and products, remain critical. However, in order to account for socio-economic issues, sustainable alternatives to plastic that do not exacerbate environmental degradation and loss of livelihoods are also key for this negotiation’s success.
It is clearly stated in the first INC session that Eritrea aligns its stance with that of the African group and in this session as well. Eritrea is committed to the initiatives that ensure sound environmental practices throughout the plastic life cycle, as well as initiatives that protect the human health and environment. The least developed countries are predominantly net importer of plastic products and have limited technical, technological and financial capacity to sustainably intervene in solving plastic pollution.

Accounting to this fact, it is critical to reflect national circumstances in the arrangements sought in this instrument. Setting up global binding product design standards and requirements to support the development of national and regional standards including transparency, monitoring and means of verification of what enters our borders. Putting forward enabling interventions will support the control of transboundary movement of plastic and regulate waste management.

The INC negotiations also requires attention to simplified access to finance, technical and technological needs of concerned parties, especially least developed countries, for swift and effective implementation of the legally binding instrument on plastic pollution.

Finally, Eritrea requests the Chair of the INC to facilitate Member States in preparing a Draft Zero Text by INC-3, in line with the roadmap set in the first session of the INC. This is crucial in order for the INC to maintain the ambition outlined in the UNEA Resolution 5/14 to develop an international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution.

I thank you.