Statement by Ethiopia for the Second Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC2) To Developing Legally Binding Instrument to Combat Plastic Pollution

HE Dr. Getahun Gardew

May 28, 2023

Paris, France

Ethiopia wishes to thank France for hosting this 2nd INC meeting to negotiate the Global legally binding Agreement to combat Plastic Pollution including in the marine environment.

During UNEA 5.2 members agreed to commence these negotiations to provide a legally binding instrument for addressing plastic pollution across the full life cycle of plastics. Since then, we met during the OEWG meeting in Dakar Senegal where we guided the Secretariat on the level of preparedness needed to ensure negotiators engaged more effectively, and for INC 1 we met in Uruguay to address major organizational as well as substantive matters.

Ethiopia would like to thank the Secretariat for developing many documents that have been a good guide towards these negotiations including the options paper.

Mr. Chair

Plastic pollution presents a threat to human health, climate, and biodiversity and in order to effectively tackle the plastic pollution and the associated environmental risk with the ever increasing of production of plastics globally the instrument should prioritise high-risk plastic including problematic polymers and products.

Ethiopia cautions that we need to choose our options carefully ensure that innovation and creativity on solutions to address plastics pollution are allowed to thrive. Let’s harness all opportunities while preventing harm to human health and the environment.

Ethiopia is a net importing country for Plastic Products. We have made an effort through domestic laws to reduce the impact of Plastic pollution focused on reduction of single-use shopping bags. However, the attempt to reduce the impact by reducing the amount of plastic going to the waste has not reached the level it
required and of course, we have heard a lot of similar voice many countries having the same challenge during the first INC. This challenge cannot be solved by one country alone, it demand harmonised global binding measures, coordination and partnership.

Mr. Chair

Ethiopia looks forward to and has an ambition to see the clear and compressive objective of the instrument to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of plastic pollution throughout the life cycle by addressing significant reduction in production and use of high-risk plastics at priority

We also emphasize the need for an effective implantation mechanism of the instrument. We do believe efficient and effective technical support that we are going to install in the instrument will determine the impact and global reduction and elimination of plastic problems.

Finally Mr. Chair

Given the urgency of the problems and the need to act quickly we ask you the chair to facilitate the preparation of the zero drafts of the instrument for the next INC which will be scheduled in Nairobi, Kenya

Colleagues,

Let me conclude by stressing once again how important this 2nd INC is. To end plastic pollution, we must be bold, innovative. I am confident that we are ready for the task ahead of us and I look forward to a constructive and successful meeting with all of you.

I thank you