NATIONAL STATEMENT FOR PREPARATORY MEETING

INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP AN
INTERNATIONAL LEGALLY BINDING INSTRUMENT ON PLASTICS
POLLUTION, INCLUDING IN THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Thank you Mr. Co-Facilitator

Ghana is honoured to make this submission as a member state and wishes to take the opportunity to announce that the Africa Group will make a separate written submission.

The Ghana Delegation wishes to congratulate and express our gratitude to the Republic of Kenya for hosting the third session of the INC.

We also take the opportunity to thank the Secretariat and congratulate them for the preparation of the Synthesis report which provides a good outline of submissions to support the discussions.

With regard to the preamble, Ghana recommends that it be finalised in future sessions when substantive elements have been discussed. The potential elements presented in UNEA Resolution 5/14 provide a good starting point for those conversations.

The preambular text should however include explicit references to:

- the relationship between plastic pollution and the connected planetary crises of climate change and biodiversity loss
- plastic pollution’s impact on human health and planetary boundaries.

Ghana proposes that the scope of the future instrument should clearly reflect the provisions of resolution UNEA 5/14 which includes:

- to end plastic pollution through a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of all plastics.
- Outline provisions to address legacy pollution,
- Outline provisions that safeguard human right to health, and to a clean and healthy environment for current and future generations.
- Eliminate categories of harmful. Chemicals and polymers of concern. These should be clearly defined and outlined in the instrument
- Support sustainable production and consumption and the environmentally sound management of plastic waste.

Ghana supports the application of the Rio Principles, including the polluter pays and precautionary principles, and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Other principles that Ghana strongly recommends for consideration are:

- just transition
- equity
- transparency
- and non-toxic circularity

On definitions, Ghana is of the view that definitions in existing Multilateral Environmental Agreements should be adopted by the instrument. The development of new definitions should only apply to elements whose definitions do not exist in the MEAs.
I thank you