Kenya’s statement on PART 2:3 Problematic and avoidable plastic products including short lived and singe use plastics products.

Kenya supports the African choice for Option 1 on problematic and avoidable plastic products including short lived and singe use plastics products. We affirm that, Kenya has already banned the single use carrier polythene bags and also banned single use plastics in protected areas, forests and beaches. Kenya issues conditional exemptions to the polythene bags for primary packaging which are regulated through licensing. Hence this text helps Kenya to expand the scope of the existing bans to cover all areas.

Regarding, intentionally added microplastics, Kenya is aligned to Africa Group Choice on Option 1. Microplastics are unique in that they cover all polymers. However, they are more widely dispersed due to their small size and wider applications.

Kenya proposes that microplastics and nano-plastics are broad enough and should be handled as a stand-alone category covering, both intentional and unintentional microplastics. The governing body should provide additional synthesis including information on health aspects of microplastics.

On Exemptions available to a Party upon request: Kenya supports the African Group proposal that clear guidelines and procedures should be provided to guide application for exemptions by parties. Kenya also notes that, where there are no safe alternatives especially for medical use, exemptions are necessary.

Borrowing from Kenya’s experience on the ban of single use carrier bags, we note that exemptions should be granted based on a pre-determined criteria, captured in clear guidelines, steps, reduction measures and timelines. The exempted categories should be published in a public portal, have traceability and accountability mechanisms, clearly labelled and accompanied by clear management plan. This is to ensure that the exempted plastics do not morph to become authorized unmanaged pollutants’.