Opening Plenary Statement during the 2nd Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-2) meeting held in Paris, France 29th May, 2023.

Chairperson,
Excellences and distinguished delegates,
Kenya expresses gratitude to the Republic of France for the warm and receptive hospitality so far and for hosting this 2nd Inter-Governmental Negotiating Committee meeting to negotiate this critical and urgent Globally binding Agreement to eliminate Plastic Pollution including in the marine environment.
During INC-1, the Secretariat was tasked with developing the Options document to guide negotiators with possible text. Kenya therefore thanks the Secretariat for circulating the Options Paper document that was based on submissions from Member States and other stakeholders. The Options paper summarized into 12 potential obligations and several implementation measures. Participation of all stakeholders remains crucial including the need to ensure a just transition that shall reduce any potential widening of the inequality gap.
Kenya reiterates the need to maintain focus on addressing plastic pollution based on the contextual circumstances of Member States, focusing on the full life cycle of plastics and robust monitoring mechanism while taking into account the volumes of legacy plastics harming the environment. The focus on the elimination of problematic polymers and chemical additives is highly welcome noting that some of the chemicals in plastic are harmful. Therefore, the treaty must be based on a precautionary principle, the right to know through transparency and traceability. Further, the treaty should ensure application of the polluter pays principle and application of a comprehensive globalised Extended Producer Responsibility model that allows for cost-recovery mechanisms.

It is envisioned that the proposed transition from a linear to circular model of plastics management will ensure that we embrace eco-designs that reduce waste and harness more opportunities within the plastics entire value chain for increased decent, safe and green jobs creation.

Kenya emphasizes the need to enhance synergy with other international agreements such as International Standards Organization and the Basel Convention to control movement of reusable plastics items to avoid illegal dumping.

Noting that the process of the negotiation is ongoing, Kenya reiterates that an all-inclusive, participatory and consultative approach, should be sustained throughout the entire negotiation process including the informal and vulnerable groups in our societies. The integration of indigenous practices and knowledge and modern science should also be harnessed during the entire negotiating process.
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Kenya hopes that this INC meeting shall set a good foundation to develop a high quality zero draft text of the global plastics agreement through consensus and notes that although the 2024 deadline set for developing the resolution seems ambitious, it is indeed doable.

Kenya aligns itself with the statement made by the African Group as delivered by Ghana and we look forward to hosting you all in INC-3 in Nairobi, this November.

Thank you.