SOUTH AFRICA in-sessional submission

CONTACT GROUP 1

On Plastic polymer production

It is critical that sustainable development remain at the centre of this instrument. Sustainable consumption and production patterns as underpinned by Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12, are key to sustain the livelihoods of current and future generations pursuant of environmental and development goals. Plastic material footprint per capita, material footprint per GDP, plastic consumption, plastic consumption per capita and others are becoming indicators of interest in tracking sustainable consumption and production that the criteria and relevant Annexures can consider as part of the Intersessional Process.

On problematic and avoidable plastic products

South Africa supports option 1 and further underscore a science-based approach in the development of the criteria to identify these problematic and avoidable products at the global level. South Africa calls for mandating the establishment of an intersessional expert group to proceed with prioritizing this work, with balanced regional representation to develop a criteria that would be discussed at the 4th session of the INC.

On intentionally added microplastics

South Africa supports option 1 and further calls for Intersessional work to assess the current applications and products with intentionally added microplastics and inform the evidence on cost-benefit analysis for critical applications for the INC to be clear on the exception vs exemption considerations and criteria.

On exemptions

South Africa underscores an additional sub-paragraph that reflect on Just Transition considerations linked to the ambitious means of implementation (including but not limited to finance, technology transfer and technical assistance for developing countries) as part of the exemption procedure.

On the options under 5 (a) Product Design and performance

South Africa calls for Intersessional work to clarify the design and performance criteria.
The **intersessional work** should also provide the necessary socio-economic assessment linked to the global minimum design and performance criteria and the implications of the timeline prescribed in the Annex in line with the Just Transition principle.

South Africa supports Option 2.

**On option 5(b) Reduce, reuse, refill and repair**

South Africa underscores **intersessional work** to inform the targets under consideration in Option 1.

South Africa underscores that Option 2 that cater for the special circumstances of developing countries.

**On option 5 (c) Use of recycled plastic contents**

South Africa supports the new option text to be provided through the written Africa Group submission.

**On option 5(d) Alternative plastics and plastic products**

South Africa underscores Option 2.

**CONTACT GROUP 3**

**On Definitions:**

The South African delegation request for Additional definitions to be included aligned to the call by many delegations on recognizing the role of waste pickers

- Waste pickers refer to people who participate individually or collectively in the collection, separation, sorting, transport, and sale of recyclable and reusable materials and products (paper, plastic, metal, glass, and other materials) in an informal or semi-formal capacity, as own-account workers, or a cooperative or social and solidarity economy setting, and as workers who subsequently achieved formal work arrangements through their organisations.
- **just transition (International Labour Organisation)**
- Part II section 6 under Non-plastic substitutes “At scale”

**On Principles**

South Africa regards principles to be necessary in guiding and influencing measures of the instrument in ending plastic pollution. In this regard that, South Africa underscores

Human rights on protection of human health and the environment,

Precautionary Principle that underscore a risk-averse and cautious approach need to be applied, the instrument need to take into account the limits of current knowledge about the consequences of plastics, Polluter Pays Principle, Extended Producer Responsibility, Just Transition Principle.

It is necessary that the Rio principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) as provided for in the founding UNEA 5/14 decision is underscored as it is necessary for South Africa as a developing country.
Evidence-based policy making require that the best available science need to inform the criteria linked to relevant measures. Openness and transparency in sharing of information about plastics.

**On Scope**
South Africa supports UNEA 5/14 on comprehensive approach that addresses the full life-cycle of plastics to eliminate plastic pollution, including leakage, to protect the environment, human health and livelihoods from the impacts of plastic pollution. South Africa underscore sustainable consumption and production and complementarity with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12, is key to sustain the livelihoods of current and future generations.

**On subsidiary bodies,**
South Africa underscores the need for evidence-based policy making and thus the establishment of a socioeconomic technical body with a mandate to assess and address the impacts of policy measures arising from this instrument, including the environmental and socio-economic feasibility of obligatory measures is necessary.

South Africa underscores the establishment of the body that would be entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism as emphasized by Cameroon, Brazil and others. South Africa supports the Effectiveness Evaluation Committee to enable progressive tracking. We have seen the effectiveness of some instruments within the Chemicals and Waste Cluster being undermined due to lack of Effectiveness Evaluation Committee.

**Intersessional Work** on criteria for the following:
- Chemicals and Polymers of concern
- Problematic products

**Hosting of the Secretariat of the instrument**
South Africa supports the hosting of the Secretariat of the instrument in UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi.