

**Second Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution
29 May - 2 June 2023, Paris, France**

**Draft
GHANA STATEMENT**

Mr. President, excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

It's my utmost pleasure to read this statement on behalf of my delegation from Ghana.

Since Ghana is taking the floor for the first time, we want to take the opportunity to thank the Government and the people of France for the warm hospitality they offered us since we arrived in France and for agreeing to host the INC-2. We also want to thank our kind sponsors for their contribution to support this meeting.

Mr. President, Ghana aligns itself with the position statement made by the African group in the development of an internationally legally binding instrument for plastics pollution, including in the marine environment.

Mr. President, Ghana has witnessed how plastics have been indiscriminately disposed into our water bodies resulting in perennial floods across the country. We have also experienced low fish yields as toxic chemicals in plastics adversely impact aquatic ecosystems and among others diminish our fish stocks and ultimately affect human health.

Based on the effect of plastics on the Ghanaian economy, Ghana has enacted a National Plastic Management Policy (NPMP) which aims to comprehensively manage plastics to address current environmental and human health challenges as well as also provide a vehicle for sustainable development.

In conclusion, Mr. President, excellencies, distinguished delegates, Ghana would like to reiterate its commitment and support for the UNEA Resolution 3/7 which calls for all countries to develop and implement action plans for:

- preventing marine litter and the discharge of microplastics,
- encouraging resource efficiency,
- increasing collection and recycling rates of plastic waste,
- re-designing and re-using of products and materials, and
- avoiding the unnecessary use of plastic and plastic containing chemicals of particular concern (para 4c).

The Ghanaian delegation is ready to work with the other member states to ensure we continue discussions on a legally binding instrument on plastic pollution. We are also ready to share our experience with delegates on the processes leading to the enactment of the Ghana's national policy on plastics and to learn from others on how to improve upon our policy going forward.

Thank you, Mr. President, for your kind attention.