

Statement of the Federal Republic of Somalia

At the Second Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to Develop International Legally Binding Instrument on plastic pollution, including in the Marine Environment

29 May - 2 June 2023, Paris, France

Mr. Chair, Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

Let me first of all register our appreciation to UNEP-INC for the excellent arrangement in organizing and preparing for this important meeting. We also extend our gratitude to the government and people of France for the warm hospitality.

Mr chair, In addressing the challenges of plastic pollution, Somalia aligns with the African Group submission presented by the Ghanaian Delegation on behalf of the Arican group.

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates

Like many other nations in the world, Somalia is currently facing pressing environmental challenges related to Plastic pollution and marine litter. As it occupies much of the 'Horn of Africa', with the longest coastline in continental Africa, situated both the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean.

Mr. Chair.

Plastics pollution presents a threat to human health, climate and biodiversity. Microplastics can be found in everywhere, in our food, water and even in the air we breathe. Its also potential threat to our food security, marine ecosystem, healthy safety and establishment of a vibrant blue economy.

Somalia government stands ready to partner the rest of the world to engage in negotiations towards an implementable international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution. To this end, we seek to develop an instrument that takes

an ambitious, innovative, and traditional solution to combating plastic pollution throughout its lifecycle.

Therefore, Somalia urges the producers and manufacturers of plastics products to stop the use of hazardous and toxic additives in their products and to change their process designs to produce recyclable plastics. And also the industries and companies to collect their plastic waste and recycle it in environmentally safe manner on the basis of polluter pay principles.

In conclusion, Somalia requests the Chair of the INC to facilitate Member States in preparing a high quality zero draft by INC-3, in line with the roadmap set in the first session of the INC.

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates.

It's time for the world to promote more sustainable, and healthier, opportunities that will allow us to end plastic pollution by 2040.

We look forward to engaging on the development of global agreement to prevent new plastic pollution and manage existing plastic pollution.

I thank you!