

AFRICAN GROUP SUBMISSION ON

**“POTENTIAL RESPONSE OPTIONS TO
COMBAT MARINE PLASTIC LITTER AND
MICROPLASTICS FROM ALL SOURCES”**

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Outline

- ▶ Context
- ▶ Purpose
- ▶ Regional Situation
- ▶ Possible elements in the global governance architecture/agreement



Context

- ▶ The African Group has actively participated in the AHEG process, including the AHEG-3 in Bangkok.
- ▶ In AHEG-3 reiterated problem of marine litter and microplastics has serious economic, ecological and social consequences, derailing the region's progress towards a sustainable development future.
- ▶ 17th session of AMCEN (Nov 2019), African states committed to:
“supporting global action to address plastic pollution which will require further work to engage more effectively on global governance issues on plastic pollution, **including reinforcing existing agreements and the option of a new global agreement on plastic pollution that takes a comprehensive approach to addressing the full lifecycle of plastics.**”



Purpose

- ▶ The submission gives views of the African Group regarding possible global response options, including some of the elements that could form part of **a new and strengthened global governance structure to address the problem of plastic pollution.**



Regional Situation

- ▶ African countries have introduced legislation aimed at tackling plastic pollution, including by prohibiting certain products like plastic bags.
- ▶ Challenges such as influx of plastics from other regions through porous borders, inadequate enforcement and loss of jobs among others.
- ▶ Effects of these efforts have been further limited by the lack of a dedicated and coherent international regulatory framework.
- ▶ Plastic pollution is a transboundary issue, and goes beyond national jurisdiction.
- ▶ Global response is therefore needed to enable the success of national initiatives.



Possible elements in the global governance agreement

- ▶ Shared vision
- ▶ Reduction targets
- ▶ National action plans
- ▶ Monitoring and reporting
- ▶ Scientific body
- ▶ Implementation support
- ▶ Common rules and regulations



Shared vision

- ▶ Build on the zero-vision agreed to in UNEA resolution 3/7.
- ▶ International community articulate a clear goal of eliminating all discharge of plastic into the ocean, directly or indirectly, based on the principle of precaution and in recognition of the devastating impact plastic pollution has on ecosystems and livelihoods.



Reduction targets

- ▶ International community should set a clear and measurable reduction target, to be reached by a certain year.
- ▶ Translated into national reduction targets, in an equitable manner, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.



National Action Plans

- ▶ Governance architecture should facilitate the development of national action plans, which would serve as planning tools in efforts to achieve the national reduction targets.
- ▶ National action plans are also useful in terms of adapting policy measures and regulatory interventions to local and national context.



Monitoring and Reporting

- ▶ Global governance architecture should provide for an agreed measurement, reporting (covering *inter alia* plastic production, use and management) at the national and international level in order to measure progress toward a safe circular economy for plastics and the elimination of leakage.
- ▶ Verification scheme for tracking marine litter and microplastics discharge and the progress made to eliminate them at a national and international level.



Scientific body

- ▶ Monitoring of national discharge should be supplemented by the establishment of a dedicated international scientific body with a mandate to assess and track the extent of the problem and collect state-of-the-art knowledge to provide inputs for decision-making and implementation.



Implementation Support

- ▶ New global governance structure or agreement should include a **system for supporting States in their efforts to achieve their reduction targets.**
- ▶ Should include a financial mechanism and a scheme for transfer of technology and expertise.



Common Rules and Regulations

- ▶ International community should strive to **develop common calculation methods, definitions, standards and regulations** for an efficient and coordinated global effort to combat plastic pollution.
- ▶ New global governance architecture should also **provide a platform for adopting uniform regulatory measures applicable to all States, especially on categories of plastic products that are most prone to leakage** and that pose a particular risk to the environment, including single-use plastics, fishing gear and primary microplastics.



Thank you for your kind
attention!

