



**STATEMENT BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR AT THE COP II  
22ND AUGUST 2024, IVATO CONFERENCE CENTER, ANTANARIVO,  
MADAGASCAR**

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**Your Excellencies, Honourable Ministers**

**Deputy and principal Ministers/ secretaries**

**Government Representatives**

**Representatives of civil society**

**Partners from Academia**

**The Head of the Nairobi Convention Secretariat**

**All Delegates present,**

**Introduction**

It is an honour to be part of this conference of parties, COP II, and on behalf of the private sector in Kenya.

We express our deep appreciation to the Nairobi Convention Secretariat for ensuring our participation and living the United Nations philosophy of not leaving anyone behind.

We all now know the benefit of such wholistic collaboration which is having owned solutions co-created by all in societies. The benefits of this are immense as we all know.

**Distinguished Delegates, we are now seeing Emerging Businesses Shifts**

Within the African region and globally businesses are now realising that environmental matters can no longer be ignored based on:

- **First, existing data, scientific analysis as well as the adverse climate change shifts, and biodiversity losses, necessitates** that more than ever and with haste, business must lend their innovative expertise to **innovate products and services** that minimize the environmental impact of their business operations.
- **Secondly, the traditional focus of trade on being for the exchange of goods and services is now shifting to also require mainstreaming sustainable business practices** both regionally and globally. This is evident in the numerous recent Trade Agreements being ratified which now contain clauses requiring countries as they trade to observe environmental practices.

### **Businesses have made interventions to address marine litter pollution**

- One of the key achievements of the private sector is the **development of a fact-based Plastics Action Plan that spurred Kenya's shift in policy to a circular economy from the then existing liner policy.**
- We commend the Government of Kenya through the Ministry of Environment and National Environmental Management Agency for the development of the necessary **policy and legal frameworks** promoting a circular economy approach to the management of waste products in Kenya under the National Sustainable Waste Management Policy and Act of 2022.
- This has allowed businesses to **implement extended producer responsibility schemes which is now one of the leading approaches to have businesses extend their responsibility for the waste their products will eventually generate.** Kenya has now joined other Governments such as South Africa, among others which have in place EPR schemes in addition to others in Europe and Asia.
- EPR Schemes support providing additional financing to combat pollution, strengthen the waste value chain, and allow businesses to self-regulate themselves.
- To date, the private sector has established **extended producer responsibility organisations** providing businesses a collective platform towards augmenting financing towards waste management in the country.

- **Over four locally registered extended producer responsibility organizations have been established by businesses and are operational to implement collective schemes for packaging waste, electronic and electrical as well as hazardous waste. Over 1,000 companies have enrolled in various PROs to implement EPR Schemes since 2021.**
- **Estimates indicate that the total collection through the organizations is 40,000 metrics of plastic and PET collected and recycled in Kenya since 2021.**
- **Also, due to the transboundary nature of marine pollution, Business Associations across the East Africa Region have commenced collaborations to mitigate pollution from their products under the East African Community Business Council which has now built a network for sharing best practices and innovation to protect the eco-system. The collaboration is also advancing the adoption and implementation of extended producer schemes.**
- We continue to partner with different **research institutions** and experts some of whom are present in this forum such as ICUN to provide critical data related to the manufacturing sector in the endeavor of ensuring we have fact-based interventions. These partnerships include:
  - In addition, Industries that depend on the blue economy for their economic activities are **leading in the protection of marine life such as mangroves** in areas such as in Kilifi County through public-private partnerships between industry and the Kenya Forest Service.
  - We continue to convene annually including this year **‘Kenya’s Annual Circular Economy Forum’ which attracts Government and businesses within the waste value chain in Kenya and globally** in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, and partners such as the Denmark Embassy in Kenya, among others. This forum **has allowed stakeholders in the waste value chain to display the innovations by businesses to tackle pollution, take stock of the capacities of the value chain** to address waste concerns, and a networking forum to exchange ideas.

- **Capacity building support and awareness are ongoing to sensitize businesses on the need to adopt sustainable environmental practices more so micro, small, and medium-term enterprises** who face unique constraints that hinder a fast-tracked implementation process, to achieve Kenya's and the global agenda on environmental sustainability.

### **In conclusion**

- Indeed, multi-stakeholder collaborations are the only way to achieve rapid results in our pursuit to ensure the protection of biodiversity. This forum is a great example of this.
- We therefore wish to confirm that:
  1. **Kenya being a signatory to the Nairobi Convention, we are bound by the Commitments of this Forum.** We commit to working with our government towards supporting the same and collaborating in areas that require businesses. To find more solutions.
  2. We will also **continue to partner with the Nairobi Convention Secretariat to gain access to its rich partner expert support** in this critical agenda to protect our biodiversity.

I thank the Republic of Madagascar for the warm welcome and once again thank you for this noble move to ensure private sector inclusion in such critical discussions.

**Kenya Association of Manufacturers**  
**On behalf of the Private Sector**