



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 715 {NW854E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 6 of 2022

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Mr N Singh (IFP) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

Given that there are approximately eight million tonnes of plastic waste in our oceans, and given that such waste knows no borders, what are the details of the Republic's position regarding calls for the establishment and participation in an international and legally binding treaty mandating targets to reduce plastic pollution?

715. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

South Africa welcomes the adoption of the resolution titled "End Plastic Pollution: Towards an International Legally Binding Instrument". South Africa is in full support of this decision, which represents an important landmark to protect the environment, particularly our oceans that are important for food security, addressing climate change, improving health, and promoting sustainable development and poverty eradication.


An Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) will be constituted to develop this international legally binding instrument in the second half of 2022, with the aim of completing it by the end of 2024.

South Africa's position on this instrument, which will include binding and voluntary approaches, is based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full lifecycle of plastic, taking into account the

principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, as well as South Africa's circumstances and capabilities. Critical to the implementation of this international legally binding instrument for South Africa is the means of implementation, namely finance, technology and capacity, which the INC will take into account during the development.

South Africa will actively engage in future multilateral negotiations on plastics pollution with a view to ensuring that we not only have an ambitious and robust instrument, but that the needs of our developing country are firmly anchored within this new legally binding instrument.

Regards



MS B D CREECY, MP
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

DATE: 18/3/2022