Mr. Chair

1. It is a great honor for me to deliver this statement on behalf of all Africa member states.
2. We wish to appreciate and congratulate the government of Canada, the INC Chair, the Co-Chairs, the Co-facilitators, the Secretariat, and members of the Committee for the progress made during INC4.

Mr. Chair,

The Africa group commits itself to continue working with the INC member states to prepare a legally binding instrument that will enable us to achieve sustainable consumption and production of primary plastic polymers, eliminate specific problematic polymers, chemicals, products, and applications of concern and address plastic pollution across the full lifecycle as mandated by the UNEA resolution 5/14.

3. The task ahead of us is still enormous and therefore, there is a need to consider innovative ways to move forward without compromising the process and the desired outcomes.

4. On intersessional work, the Africa Group calls for an open-ended intersessional process with the participation of key partners from civil society. This will facilitate the achievement of a successful negotiation outcome, and secure broad acceptance of the outcomes of the process, thus avoiding any further delays in reaching an agreement on the instrument.

5. We would like to further welcome the establishment of the legal drafting group, as this will support expediting the negotiation process for this instrument. As mentioned before, the Africa Group is committed to chair or co-chair the legal drafting group.
6. The Africa Group looks forward to further consideration of mechanisms for cooperation between Parties and other relevant agencies for the provision of timely, sustainable, comprehensive, and adequate financing, capacity-building and technical and scientific cooperation, and technology transfer, to developing countries, in particular to African countries, to facilitate the implementation of obligations under the new instrument.

7. We also reaffirm the need to ensure a just and fair transition and clear linkages with the means of implementation. Additionally, we encourage an inclusive approach that considers regional economic integration, and people in vulnerable situations, including stakeholders, amongst others, waste pickers and other workers along the plastic value chain, for building collective and innovative solutions to combat plastic pollution.

8. We underscore our commitment to INC-5, based on the principle of inclusivity and ensuring that no one is left behind. We appreciate the INC Chair and the donors for increasing the number of funded participants to three in anticipation of exceptional circumstances in Busan for effective and efficient finalization of the instrument.

9. Furthermore, our continent, despite its low responsibility on the upstream side, is committed to constructively contributing to a successful outcome of the negotiations and is open to new approaches that will lead us to a robust and efficient framework that addresses plastic pollution at all levels.

10. In conclusion, we welcome the outcomes of INC4, and we look forward to supporting the INC process to deliver its mandate in line with UNEA resolution 5/14.

I thank you, Chair.