

Closing Remarks from the Delegation of Barbados at the Close of the second Part of the Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to Develop an International Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution, including in the Marine Environment.

Chair, Excellencies, Colleagues,

I thank you Chair and your team: we know you approached this with integrity and intention. Our commendations to the co-chairs, the co-facilitators and the Secretariat.

I will speak plainly. Our delegation is disappointed—deeply so.

There are many reasons why a successful outcome mattered to Barbados as a small island developing state. You have heard it all, these two weeks from many of us.

We needed an agreement that addressed the full life cycle of plastics. The science speaks for itself.

We needed an agreement with effective means of implementation including access to financing.

We needed an agreement that fully recognized the specific circumstances of SIDS.

Unfortunately there was no consensus on the two texts you have placed on the table. They have both lacked critical elements of importance to Barbados and the process, especially around your second draft, has not allowed for the necessary negotiations.

We have been very concerned by the limited actions taken by some Member States to seek meaningful compromise. Too often, positions have remained entrenched, and opportunities for convergence have been allowed to pass by. We ask members to reconsider their red lines.

That said we saw so much passion and commitment here these last few days from many quarters. Civil society, think tanks, indigenous communities, activists and academics, we thank you. The youth activists—we thank you. Those that amplified the voices of SIDS and our issues, we thank you.

We have spent three years working toward the promise of UNEA Resolution 5/14: an effective, ambitious, legally binding agreement to prevent, reduce, and, where possible, eliminate plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

We have not delivered. It is not just a procedural shortfall—it is a failure to meet the expectations of the people we serve and the environment we are sworn to protect.

While we have been stuck in process, the plastic problem has not paused to wait for us. The oceans continue to choke on debris. Ecosystems continue to be impacted. Communities continue to bear the cost of our inaction. And with every delay, our credibility is tested.

Our mandate remains. We must continue—urgently—to explore every possible modality, every constructive approach, that will allow us to achieve the goal set out in UNEA Resolution 5/14 including a resumed INC.

We owe it to the planet, to future generations, to multilateralism and frankly, to our own word as representatives of our communities and of the voiceless—to lead with purpose, morality and with a global consciousness.

Barbados stands ready to contribute.

Thank you.