1. Thank you, Mr Chair. I would like to thank the Government of Canada and UNEP for hosting us this week in Ottawa.

2. Plastic products are widely used across the agricultural sectors, spanning applications in crops, and livestock production, forestry, fisheries, and aquaculture.

3. Plastic products in agriculture increase productivity, reduce resource use, and provide economic advantages for farmers, thereby positively impacting food security and nutrition.

4. However, once abandoned, lost, or discarded in the environment, they may pose significant risks to the environment and potentially represent a hazard to food safety, and human health.

5. FAO supports the inclusion of sector-specific approaches and the intersessional work on such approaches to prevent and reduce plastic pollution associated with agricultural activities, while safeguarding food security, food safety, nutrition, considering One Health approach, and improving sustainability.

6. This work should recognize and build upon the existing international instruments, frameworks, and sectoral bodies, including international organizations and their mandates and work.

7. To be effective, the global treaty should take into consideration both benefits and trade-offs of plastics used in agricultural sub-sectors, including fisheries and aquaculture.

8. Addressing plastics pollution within agrifood value chains should be an integral part of the transformation of agrifood systems to be more efficient, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable.

9. FAO is currently developing a Voluntary Code of Conduct for the sustainable use and management of plastics in agriculture, which will provide sector-specific guidelines, best practices, and indicators for all stakeholders across the agrifood value chain to support the implementation of the Instrument.

10. The Instrument should be strengthened by considering internationally agreed rules, standards, and recommended practices and procedures, including those developed by FAO and IMO, particularly for fishing gear made of plastic material such as the MARPOL Convention, London Convention and its Protocol, FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear, and the work of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations to address and mitigate the impacts of plastic fishing gear.

11. FAO remains ready to provide technical support and guidance to its Members on the negotiation of provisions in the new Instrument relevant to its technical mandate.

12. Thank you.