On behalf of the Government of Georgia

Opening Statement INC 4

Ottawa 23 April – 29 April 2024

Your Excellencies,

Dear colleagues,

It is my honor to address you all within the margins of the INC 4.

As we convene today to address one of the most urgent environmental crises of our time, we must recognize the gravity of the situation and be ready for effective negotiations to finalize the draft text of the legal instrument. I would like to thank the Government of Canada for hosting the INC4 and the high-level Ministerial and the Partnership Day together with the WWF. On behalf of the Government of Georgia, we reiterate our readiness to work as hard as possible, use inter-sessional work if we agree on that, and do our best to move forward and demonstrate the progress before INC5.

I believe that legally binding instrument on plastic will serve as an inspiration of commitment, guiding nations toward a future free from plastic waste.

As a HAC member state and cosponsor of the UNEA Resolution 5/14, I would like to underline our full support to the approaches such as the full life cycle of plastics including primary plastic polymers, products made of/or containing plastics as well as chemicals, and plastic pollution in all its forms and dimensions. The agreement should prioritize the reduction of plastic waste through measures such as extended producer responsibility, product redesign, and the promotion of sustainable alternatives. For us as an EU candidate country, it is important to use the common approaches and concepts of circularity—the idea that resources should be used, reused, and recycled in a closed loop. This means rethinking the way we produce, consume, and dispose of plastic, with an emphasis on minimizing waste and maximizing recovery. It also means holding producers accountable for the full lifecycle of their products through extended producer responsibility schemes. I would like to underline that the national action plans is one of the preferred options for the countries in need, to ensure the effective implementation of the treaty.

However, the success of the national implementation hinges on more than just policy; it requires practical support and resources, as well as technology transfer and knowledge sharing. Financial assistance is essential to enable developing nations to build the infrastructure and capacity needed to manage their plastic waste effectively. This support must be coupled with capacity-building initiatives that empower communities and institutions to take ownership of their waste management systems. The funding mechanism should be created under the plastic treaty to support its effective implementation in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

Dear Chair,
We would like to thank you and the INC Secretariat for your efforts and hard work for the development of the scenario note and the revised draft, which is a good basis for the successful negotiations during the INC4.

In closing, let us seize this opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to combating plastic pollution and protecting our planet for future generations; we are here to negotiate, compromise, and move towards the consolidated version of the text in the end of INC4.