My warm welcome to countries, stakeholders and civil societies for attending the fourth round of negotiations today in Ottawa, Canada, organized by the prolific and competent INC secretariat. My gratitude also goes to the Government of Canada for the hospitality they accorded us here in Ottawa.

The high and rapidly increasing levels of plastic pollution represent a serious environmental problem at a global scale negatively impacting the environment, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development.

Since the ocean is downstream from nearly every terrestrial location, it is the receiving body for much of the plastic waste generated on land.

Human wellbeing depends on nature and economic development, but it can no longer be at nature’s expense.

The havoc wrecked by plastic on our environment is visible and urgent steps must be taken to address this ugly situation.

We must work together to help countries mainstream nature into economic decisions, including the private sector as part of the solution for people and nature.

We must come together and workout modalities to protect our natural environment at all cost in order to shape tomorrow’s world. And we have little time to stop plastic pollution, otherwise, the scale will be out of control.
We welcome the ongoing process for a global Plastic Treaty and support the partners in place in order to eliminate, and remediate plastic pollution, and enhance circular plastic management at local, regional and global levels. We urge partners to adopt clear and verifiable objectives to curb further plastic pollution from single-use plastic products to protect areas, land and marine environments.

It is very clear that ending plastic pollution worldwide will require robust support to developing countries, including provision of means of implementation for control measures and related activities through a dedicated fund and additional support from other complementary sources.

A financial mechanism that includes a dedicated fund, should provide the principal vehicle for supporting technology transfer and development, capacity building and technical assistance to countries that need such support to effectively implement the new instrument. The parties may consider the possibility of establishing additional funds as part of the financial mechanism to support the implementation of control measures and to finance rehabilitation and ecological restoration of specific ecosystem

This process of negotiation to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment is shared by majority of mankind and we stand to support and implement the outcome of the negotiations.

Thank you.