Thank You Chair.

As we are aware, the Preamble to the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the WTO emphasizes the need for positive efforts designed to ensure that developing countries secure a share in the growth in international trade commensurate with the needs of their economic development.

GATT 1994, recognizes that there is need for positive efforts designed to ensure that developing countries, and especially the least developed among them, secure a share in the growth in international trade commensurate with the needs of their economic development. The consideration to all these elements of the multilateral trading system should be given here; elimination or even reduction in trade in plastics may impact developing countries and livelihoods associated with it.

Similarly, The Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement of WTO stresses that the regulations and standards, including packaging, marking and labelling requirements and procedures for conformity with technical regulations and standards do not create unnecessary obstacles to international trade and should not become disguised restriction on international trade.

It also recognizes the difficulties developing countries may face in formulation and application of technical regulations and provides for differential and more favorable treatment to developing countries.

In this regard, any technical regulation or standard should not be more trade restrictive than necessary to fulfil a legitimate objective.

Any discussion in this area should be focused on the UNEA Resolution 5/14 without affecting the rights and obligations of member countries under the multilateral trading system, which is based on among others the foundational principles of consensus based decision-making and special and differential treatment.

UNEA resolution 5/14 mandates to promote cooperation and coordination with relevant regional and international conventions, instruments and organizations, while recognizing their respective mandates, avoiding duplication and promoting complementarity of action.

I thank you.