Thank you.

Indian delegation would like to reiterate that any restriction on the primary plastic polymer is beyond the mandate of UNEA 5/14.

It is recognized that developing countries mostly have the production and consumption of plastics for meeting the basic needs and therefore is of subsistence nature. The developing countries have the sovereign right to sustainable development. Plastics play a definite role in the economic as well as social development.

It is to be understood that developed countries have achieved their levels of development with a definitive role played by the plastics. We all understand that plastics per se are not menace. That is reflected in the mandate also of UNEA resolution 5/14 which is to end plastic pollution.

As many of us agree that it is the plastic waste management and related concerns along the life cycle of plastics that cause plastic pollution must form the basis of related provisions in the proposed instrument.

There must not be no cap/binding target for the reduction or phase out on the production of plastic polymers.

UNEA 5/14 mandates the development of the international legally binding instrument which could include both binding and voluntary approaches, taking into account the principles of Rio Declaration as well as national circumstances and capabilities.

This lists out the provisions wherein after specification of objectives, the focus is on promotion of Sustainable Consumption and Production through among other things, product design and environmentally sound management including through Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy approaches.

It is important to note what is creating the problem is unmanaged and littered waste which gets leaked into the environment and causes adverse
impacts on human well being and environment. Also, there may be less focus on sustainable and optimal use of plastics and plastic products.

The instrument need to focus on such aspects that does not lead to plastic ending as pollutant by taking actions that promote reuse, refill, recycle, refurbish and use of recycled content.

It is important to note that circular economy would, in turn, result in use of higher recycled plastic which, in turn, would replace the use of virgin raw material. Also, sustainable production and consumption as well as the restrictions on some of the problematic as well as avoidable plastic products would in turn, result in the decrease of demand of plastics.

India supports option zero.

Thank you.