Closing Statement by Maldives
Ottawa, Canada, 29 April 2024

Mr. Chair,

We speak on our national capacity and aligns ourselves with the statement made by Samoa on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States.

We thank the co-chairs, co-facilitators, the Secretariat and of course, the host country Canada, for all the support here at INC-4.

We recognise the need for steady progress, need for flexibility and the high ambition required to continue the good work we have been undertaking in INC-4 onto INC-5. While some progress has been made over the course of the week here in Ottawa, much urgent work remains for coordinated global actions to stem the flow of plastics into our oceans to protect our livelihood for future generations as the crisis of plastic pollution continues to worsen day by day. Given the importance of making progress and to ensure continuation of work until INC-5, we welcome and support the proposal on the intersessional work.

We know the world cannot achieve its goals of ending plastic pollution and limit global average temperature rise to less than 1.5 degrees if the unsustainable production of primary plastic polymers is not addressed. We strongly believe that the Agreement needs to address the full lifecycle of plastics, from production to disposal to effectively end plastic pollution crisis.

Despite being among the smallest delegations at INC-4, we have remained flexible and committed for steady progress. Being a small island nation, we are already challenged by our unique geographical characteristics which has led us to be more vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters, although we minimally contribute to it. Fundamentally, our livelihood depends on our extraordinary marine and terrestrial biodiversity, as we continue to speak of the importance of recognising the special circumstances of small island developing states.

We need to ensure the agreement is supported by new, additional, adequate, and predictable means of implementation. With our very existence, economy and livelihood depending on oceans, we cannot wait any longer. We rely on the members to share the same sense of urgency, as we do not have time. We look forward to discussing with members to make meaningful progress and outcome in Busan.

I Thank you Chair.