Excellencies
Dear Colleagues and friends
Good morning,
At the outset, I wish to express the delight of my delegation to be here in Ottawa for another fruitful negotiation with an ambition to develop an international legal instrument which could efficiently address the issue of plastic pollution particularly in the marine environment. In this respect, we wish to echo our appreciation to the INC secretariat and the host country for their efforts in organizing this important meeting.

We also would like to express our sincere gratitude and felicitation over the leadership of Your Excellency, Ambassador Vayas, and we remain assured that through your able chairmanship, balanced approach and working closely with all countries and groups of countries, we would be able to conclude our work in a constructive, positive and timely manner.

My delegation also wishes to associate itself with the statement of Kuwait on behalf of the group of Like Minded Countries, as well as the statement of the State of Palestine on behalf of the Asia Pacific Group in this respect.

Dear Friends
We are living in a critical juncture that the world is facing with various geopolitical, economic and environmental challenges including various pollutions resulting mostly from inefficiency and mismanagement.

But in addressing the issue of plastic pollution, we do need to acknowledge that plastic products represent a cornerstone of our modern life. Plastic is an indispensable material for the society, economy, and trade and it provides tremendous services and support to the healthcare system, agriculture and food security and important industries. However, the continuing mismanagement of legacy as well as newly-generated plastic waste has led and is still contributing to environmental pollution.

Addressing these challenges, in addition to the political will necessitates maturity in understanding the nature and scope of these issues together with focusing on the potentials for reduction and elimination of those pollutions through better plastic waste management and mobilizing financial resources and technical and technological assistance in particular to developing countries for their calculated and environmentally sound actions.
To better understand about the huge potentials and effectiveness of plastic waste management related actions for drastically reducing pollution, it is good to know that only 9 percent of the total plastic wastes in the world are recycled, while 50 percent goes to landfills and 30 percent are burned with unbelievable impacts on environment and human health. That is why we believe that improved patterns and ways of waste management together with changes in plastic products design and applications in order to make our life more sustainable shall be the core of the future instrument.

In this relation, it must be ensured that the objectives, scope and the coverage of the initial mandate given by the UNEA resolution 5/14 is not overstretched or overridden and the future instrument shall not apply to materials and intermediate products which are of dual-use nature and have to be further processed for serving many end uses other than plastics.

On the other side, we should bear in mind that actions could not be taken and enforced in vacuum and necessarily we should take into account the realities of our life including the circumstances, capabilities, capacities and development priorities of countries in particular the need for economic growth, food security and poverty eradication as the most overriding priorities for developing nations in this respect.

Accordingly, in consideration of possible solutions and response measures to the challenge of plastic pollution, we should be cautious and realistic not to be deceived or misguided by misperceptions, and to ensure that our objectives would be attainable and our actions effective.

Certainly, a cooperative, voluntary and bottom-up approach shall better serve such goal. It is also essential to ensure that Parties are not compelled to make a choice between their pursuit of national sustainable development and the foisted instruments of tackling plastic pollution.

Furthermore, in such a strive and taking into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR), developed countries should take the lead in a legally binding manner and the developing countries would also follow, but on a voluntary basis and through unhindered access to the means of implementation.

In this respect, it shall be ensured that the measures taken to combat plastic pollution, including the unilateral ones, should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade in particular against the strive of the developing countries.

On the other hand, there is a dire need to ensure non-discrimination treatment of plastic products vis-à-vis products from other materials in terms of their impact on human health,
environment and climate in particular water scarcity, food security and other socio-economic factors.

On organization of work and procedural matters, we believe that any decisions within the framework of the future Instrument shall be made by consensus. Further, under Agenda Item 4, we must undertake the first reading of the elements and options of the Zero draft.

On the legal drafting group, we welcome to discuss the terms of references, composition and modalities of its work, towards the end of INC-4 but due to unclarity on all of the issues at this stage, this group should not start its work earlier than INC-5 depending on the level of progress to be achieved here in Ottawa. Further, this group should avoid entering into any discussions or decision making on substantial matters.

On the issue of diplomatic conference, we support to discuss on the venue of that event, but certainly consideration of any specific date in this respect is premature at this stage and should be left for INC-5.