Thank you, chair.
Let me begin by thanking the Chair and the Bureau members for the strong leadership and dedication shown throughout the meetings prior to the INC-4.
I would like to also express my sincere appreciation to the government of Canada for hosting this important meeting.

As the host of the INC-5, Korea would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm its strong support for the instrument. Korea is standing here as the strongest ally and partner in fulling the promise made in 2022.

Today, I would like to bring your attention to the single most important, undeniable fact. It is that we are running out of time.
If we fail to reach agreement this year, I am afraid we may not find another window of opportunity in the near future.

And for the successful adoption of the instrument, there are three critical elements that should be fully considered in our discussions. First, the instrument should be both effective and feasible. The treaty should be based on a comprehensive approach
that addresses the full life cycle of plastics as provided in the UNEA resolution 5/14. But at the same time, it should be economically and technologically feasible to ensure no country is left behind.

Second, the treaty should be backed by scientific evidence. We believe intersessional work on technical and scientific issues will be crucial to this end, and there should be a decision made on it at the INC-4. Korea is ready to provide full support if such intersessional work is to be conducted.

Finally, in parallel with the drafting of the instrument, we should also start building an institutional foundation for implementation. Target-setting is an important process, but it would be useless without proper implementation. In that sense, the INC should identify every possible means of implementation.

Chair, I expect intense, late-night negotiations to be continued here in Ottawa again following Punta del Este, Paris and Nairobi. I do believe hard work never goes in vain and wish we could build on the progress and see a clear outcome by the end of this year. Thank you.