PLENARY – CLOSING STATEMENT

MR. CHAIR, EXCELLENCIES, AND DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES

The Philippines extends its appreciation to Canada as the host of INC4.

We shall not forget the past few days here in Ottawa.

And we thank you Chair for the hard work and for the earnest effort, as well as of your Bureau and the Secretariat.

Until we finally adopt an international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, the global governance landscape to address plastic pollution will remain fragmented and inadequate. Thankfully, in a true show of multilateralism these past days and nights, we challenged our human physiology and came together for a milestone agreement to hold intersessional work with the goal of arriving at a more cohesive and coherent draft text with only one more session ahead of us.

We will be ready to engage, and build upon our common ground using the best available science and traditional knowledge, moved by justice and human rights to ensure a just transition, and the principles of international cooperation and CBDR for the recognition of the circumstances of developing countries, particularly the environmentally and ecologically vulnerable, geographically disadvantaged developing countries like the Philippines, an archipelagic state under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. The INC’s mandate under UNEA 5/14 to promote sustainable production and consumption of plastics should put us on a path towards halting the tripling of plastic wastes by 2060. We are hopeful that, in the end, we will converge towards protecting human life and the environment.

We are hopeful that, in the end, we will converge towards protecting human life and the environment, and that we heed the lessons from the best available science and traditional knowledge.

We must also be moved by justice and human rights to ensure a just transition for all workers along the plastics value chain, particularly those most vulnerable.

We are hopeful that the principles of international cooperation and CBDR lead us to the recognition of the circumstances of developing countries, particularly the environmentally and ecologically vulnerable, geographically disadvantaged developing countries like the Philippines, an archipelagic state under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. As a mega-biodiverse country, and a biodiversity hotspot, we appreciate the proposal for express commitments on biodiversity.

We fully support enhancing the circularity of plastics. But our efforts in these measures cannot compensate for the tide of plastic production. The INC’s mandate under UNEA
5/14 to promote sustainable production and consumption of plastics should put us on a path towards halting the tripling of plastic wastes by 2060.

We support an ambitious and effective instrument, and will need international cooperation towards a just and inclusive transition.

The financial mechanism and other means of implementation will be instrumental for a just transition. We support a hybrid approach to financing, and appreciate proposals to improve the delivery of other MOI, particularly, technology and scientific research.

The powerful words of 16-year old Nina and Janelle Nahmabin, representative of First Nations, on whose land we now meet, reminded us of our responsibility towards the future of her generation and her community today. It is the wisdom of the youth and indigenous peoples that we must not ignore.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.