PART II ARTICLE 3 PROBLEMATIC AND AVOIDABLE PLASTIC PRODUCTS, INCLUDING SHORT-LIVED AND SINGLE-USE PLASTIC PRODUCTS AND INTENTIONALLY ADDED MICROPLASTICS

Problematic [plastic products]** and avoidable plastic products [and groups of such products**], including short-lived and single-use plastic products

PART II ARTICLE 3b [PRODUCTS CONTAINING] Intentionally added microplastics

Thank you, Co-facilitator.

The Cook Islands is pleased to intervene on behalf of the 14 Pacific SIDS on items 3a and 3b.

If the Instrument is to have any chance of succeeding to eliminate plastic pollution as per the mandate set to this Committee by the UNEA, the reduction in production, sale, and distribution of problematic and avoidable plastic products is required, with phase-out where appropriate.

The Pacific SIDs' position is aligned with the waste hierarchy principle, reinforcing the priority of reduction, waste prevention and reuse, rather than focusing on just recycling and waste management alone. As such we support Option 1 which includes a clear provision to eliminate problematic and avoidable plastic products.

We recognise countries that produce these products will be impacted by the need to reduce and potentially phase-out these products through necessary just transition for industry and communities.

We further note the interconnected nature of the items recognising the importance to support actions under Items on Product Design, Alternative Plastics and Plastic Products, Items on non-Plastic Substitutes and the Item on Just Transition.
Understanding the interconnectedness of elements in this instrument highlights the urgent need for a comprehensive approach to tackling avoidable and problematic products.

In relation to Item 3b on Products containing Intentionally added microplastics. The Pacific SIDs support Option 1 in the streamlined text, recognising that not all primary microplastics are intentionally added to products and should be captured under the broader problematic products.

Thank you co-facilitator