Delivered by: Vanuatu on behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States

Part II, Item 6: Non-Plastic Substitutes

Thank you Mr. Co-facilitator, Vanuatu is taking the floor on behalf of the Pacific SIDs & we thank you for your hard work in producing this streamlined text on Non-Plastic Substitutes.

Our positions have been reflected in the streamlined text as follows:

1. The inclusion of “cultural” in Option 1.1 as part of the listing on Impacts
2. The inclusion of paragraph 6 on traditional knowledge, knowledge of Indigenous Peoples, and local knowledge systems
3. In Paragraph 7 on the establishment of a process for the assessment of the safety and sustainability of potential substitutes to plastics and their suitability as substitutes, considering their potential impacts on human health and the environment, the waste hierarchy, and “reduce, reuse and recycle” approaches.

However, Pacific SIDS will reserve our position on whether Part 6 on Substitutes should be merged with Part 5(d) pending clarification on the definitions of alternatives and substitutes and, in particular, non-plastic substitutes.

Thank you, Mr. Co-facilitator.