Ministry of Green Economy and Environment

Zambia’s Statement for Use During the closing plenary of the Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to Develop an International Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution, Including in The Marine Environment.

Shaw Centre, Ottawa, Canada. 29th April 2024

• The chairperson of INC;
• Your Excellences
• Heads of Delegations;
• Executive Secretary, Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) on Plastic Pollution, Ms Jyoti Mathur-Filipp
• Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen;

The Zambian delegation expresses its profound gratitude to the Canadian Government and its people for the warm hospitality accorded during the entire period of our stay. We further wish to extend our appreciation and gratitude to UNEP particularly the INC4 Secretariat for the excellent organisation of INC4.

Mr Chair,

It is a great honour to address the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC-4), taking place here at the Shaw Centre in Ottawa, Canada. This session is being held against the backdrop of global daunting environmental concerns of plastic pollution that presents serious environmental problem at a global scale, negatively impacting the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development.

Mr Chair,

Today globally, our supply chains are laden with unsustainable commercial and domestic production patterns in all the main economic sectors such as; agriculture, mining, trade and industry, infrastructure developments, forestry and waste management. Plastic waste is clogging our drainage systems and our landfills, accumulating in our dams, lakes and rivers. Single-use plastic products and packaging materials, are not disposed
of in containers for subsequent removal to landfills, recycling centres, or incinerators. Instead, they are improperly disposed off in undesignated places threatening the health of our people, animals and ecosystems.

Mr Chair
Zambia remains committed to be part of the global community by championing actions that address global environmental challenges including plastics. We align ourselves to both the AMCEN decision 19/2 and the UNEA 5/14 decisions, that the objective of the instrument should seek to ending plastic pollution, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full lifecycle of plastic, including legacy plastic, to protect human health and the environment.

Zambia has in this vain domesticated the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and is implementing actions to deliver transformative environmental actions that will contribute to the achievement of our SDGs. we subscribe to the full life cycle approach and believe Sustainable Consumption, Production and circular approaches through the use of alternative, environmentally friendly technologies, nature-based solutions, indigenous knowledge and practices can promote sustainable use of the planet’s resources.

Mr Chair
We reiterate the call by the African group and other Regional Groups on the need to pay particular attention on the means of implementation particularly the financial resources, technical assistance and technology transfer. Zambia believes like others that the overall effectiveness of implementation of this instrument depends on the effectiveness of this particular article in the instrument.

If we are to deliver effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions that will address the triple planetary crises, we must by all means address the plastic crisis and deliver transformative solutions in an effective, inclusive and sustainable manner. This envisioned future treaty is our beacon of hope.

Zambia looks forward to the intersectional work to address technical issues which include micro and Nano plastics, trade in listed chemicals, polymers and products and exemptions.

Mr Chair, I thank you