Thank you Mr Chairman

As this is Zimbabwe’s first time to speak, I would like to thank and commend you and your team for successfully organising this meeting and also thank the people and Government of Canada for hosting us in this beautiful City of Ottawa. We also take this opportunity to congratulate you Mr Chairman on your appointment and wish you a fruitful tenure as INC Chair.

Zimbabwe would like to thank the Secretariat for the Zero draft text which we are gathered here to properly ventilate and streamline. It is our hope that this will lead us to quickly finalise the instrument by the end of the year in Korea.

Zimbabwe also aligns itself with the positive sentiments expressed so far by the Africa group, more specifically on the application of the Just transition principle and also sentiments in support of provisions relating to Capacity Building/development and infrastructure.

Zimbabwe as a developing nation is exposed to the influx of plastic products due to dependence on imported products. This has resulted in an over extension of its already strained solid waste management resources leading to proliferation of plastic pollution within its environment. It is therefore necessary that this instrument come into being so as to have a unified front in tackling illegal trafficking and dumping of plastic waste.

Finally Mr Chairman, we urge all nations here represented to approach these negotiations with an open mind and with a spirit of working together as our time is limited. We have been given a mandate to have this instrument ready and in force by the year 2025 so time is of the essence.

I thank you