Thank you madam co-facilitator.

We would also like to thank Kenya as the host country for INC-3. Thank you for hosting us in your beautiful country. We would also like to congratulate the co-facilitators on their appointments.

Australia welcomes the synthesis report prepared by the INC Secretariat and, after considering the document we offer the following suggestions on how the content could be further developed, streamlined and integrated into the process.

On **Scope**, we consider that UNEA Resolution 5/14, agreed by Members here in Nairobi, provides the mandate for the instrument and adequately describes the scope. For the instrument to be successful, we consider it essential that it includes provisions across the full plastics lifecycle to achieve a safe circular economy for plastics.

Australia supports the approach taken in a number of other multilateral environmental agreements – that is, for the instrument’s scope of operation to be determined by its objective and further elaborated in the core obligations, without necessarily including a specific provision on scope. We note that this approach would also help ensure the instrument is enduring, by avoiding a prescriptive scope that inadvertently precludes future technological solutions that we cannot anticipate in 2023.

On the **Preamble** and **Principles**, we note the purpose of these sections would be to frame the instrument’s final operation and implementation. We thank the Secretariat for its work to collate those principles identified as particularly significant to INC members. Given the instrument’s provisions are still subject to discussions, we consider that it may be premature to focus on the preamble and principles at this stage of the process. We suggest instead that discussions be undertaken in earnest when we have more clarity on the instrument’s core obligations. We note suggestions by some delegations this morning that principles could be contained in other provisions of the instrument, rather than a dedicated section for principles themselves. We support the Committee’s consideration of this approach.

On **Definitions**, this section will be crucial to the instrument’s effective implementation. Given the technical nature of many terms, we consider that it would be more appropriate that definitions are progressed by technical experts through intersessional work, and are considered in the context of agreed operative provisions. As a starting point we support adopting existing agreed definitions where they exist.

Thank you.