Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

As it is the first time my delegation takes the floor, I would like to thank the Government of Kenya and UNEP for hosting us this week in Nairobi for such an important meeting.

Brazil reaffirms its commitment to an ambitious legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, with a view to protecting the environment and human health. This reflects the commitment of our government to the environment, to public health, to the protection and promotion of human rights and, from a broader perspective, to sustainable development in its social, economic and environmental dimensions.

In that spirit, we thank you, Mr. Chair, for providing a zero draft for our agreement. We will engage in the negotiations at this session with a view to achieving effective solutions to address plastic pollution throughout the life cycle of plastics, always bearing in mind the needs and realities of developing countries. We want to contribute, as much as possible, to solutions that effectively lead us to sustainable waste management accessible to all developing countries, EPR schemes and activities that promote reuse, recycling and repair of plastics and plastic products; legacy plastic, including in the marine environment; just transition; and the variety of issues that are already included in the zero draft.

Still bearing in mind the conditions of developing countries, we particularly thank you for your sensibility to the size of our delegations and your proposal to avoid more than two contact group meeting or more than two informal consultation meetings across INC at the same time.

Mr. Chair,

We firmly believe that the implementation of the instrument will be successful if implemented through the lens of sustainable development. The broad issues we are dealing with in these negotiations should be interconnected with all Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

This takes me to the need to recognize the essential environmental services waste pickers provide in many countries and to economically value that as such, so they are empowered as an active actor in the recycle chain of materials, including plastics. If waste pickers are discouraged to perform their jobs because they don’t have access to economically viable recyclable materials, the environment suffers; when we ensure their income and their jobs, they contribute to the protection of the environment. We need to work to put in place policies with incentives for them and that duly recognize their contribution to a plastic pollution-free economy. Let’s achieve not only a clean and healthy environment, but also prosperity for all.

To have an effective instrument, we will need to consider how we can really implement it. That is why Brazil again underlines the crucial need for this INC to mandate intersessional work on financing, given the fact that without robust means of implementation the final outcome of our negotiations will only be a dream. The financial mechanism will also need to consider a cooperation mechanism through which capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer are provided to developing countries, which can be facilitated by a clearing-house platform.
Countries will depart from very different starting-points, with developing countries way behind developed countries. When thinking of creative solutions to attend the needs of developing countries, we need to count on the lead of developed nations who command larger financial and technological resources. We have common but differentiated responsibilities for the environmental problems we are trying to solve and we count on international cooperation to be able to effectively deal with them.

We also understand that intersessional work on technical issues will be needed. But we have to be clear that we cannot support any intersessional work on technical issues if not accompanied by intersessional work on financing. We cannot restrict ourselves to building the “what” of our regime if we don’t dedicate ourselves to planning the “how” we are going to implement it.

Mr. Chair,

Still on the effectiveness of the instrument, Brazil reaffirms that all State Members need to be onboard. We need global action and global solutions to a global problem and of a transboundary nature. For that we need the political commitment of all countries. That is why this instrument can only be adopted on the basis of consensus.

Regarding the way forward at this INC session, we welcome the efforts by the Secretariat to produce the Synthesis Report, which has been very useful to kickstart discussions. Given the broad debate we conduct back home with government and stakeholders across all our society, and the fact that the Report was distributed only around two weeks ago, we need to reserve our position, at this point, on any text that may be reflected in a new draft stemming from the Report at this point.

We also need to refer to the options on possible provisions on trade-related measures because any rules we might consider must be aligned with Principle 12 of the Rio Declaration, which states that trade policy measures for environmental purposes should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade. Such discriminatory measures tend to lead to undesired economic effects that are, in turn, conducive to undesired environmental effects as well.

These are only general and initial points on the work we will engage on under item 4. We will manifest our positions in more detail, as suggested by you in your Reflection Note, in the contact groups which will be established in this meeting.

Thank you.