Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Excellencies, Colleagues,

Canada appreciates the collaborative spirit that permeates this gathering, building from the spirit of Nairobi, and extend gratitude to the Chair, the INC Secretariat, and the Republic of Kenya for their dedicated efforts in planning INC-3.

Canada eagerly supports transitioning into contact groups this evening to delve into our crucial negotiations. Our commitment to the United Nations Environment Assembly resolution propels us to urgently address this crisis through inclusive, sustainable, and effective solutions.

INC-3 marks a pivotal juncture, reaching the halfway mark of planned sessions and navigating the zero draft. Canada views the zero draft as a strong foundation for mutual exchange as we progress in shaping this instrument.

Canada looks forward to an instrument that will facilitate a systems change and support concrete and complementary actions across the full lifecycle of plastics – by enabling sustainable production, consumption and circularity, strengthening plastic waste management, and addressing the causes and sources of plastic pollution. An effective instrument should also emphasize common legally binding provisions and control measures as well as set the framework for achieving a shared objective to end plastic pollution. In order to set the path for conclusion of negotiations by the end of 2024, Canada supports the Chair’s scenario note and aligns itself with the high ambition coalition statement from over 60 countries from all regions, notably for the Chair to develop a complete first draft text for consideration at the fourth negotiation session in Ottawa.

Committed to collaboration, inclusivity, and constructive negotiation, we stand ready to work collectively towards substantive discussions, aiming for significant progress in developing an ambitious and effective legally binding instrument on plastic pollution.

Thank you.