Thank you co-facilitator. As instructed, Canada will address the preamble, principles, definition, and scope in one intervention.

For the Preamble:

Canada supports preambular language that builds upon UNEA resolution 5/14 and sets the required context of the instrument in a concise and meaningful way by recognizing the gravity of the issue, including its breadth of socio-economic and environmental impacts and interlinkages with the triple planetary crisis. It should also reinforce the need for urgent action through a comprehensive and lifecycle approach and set the frame for taking a resource efficient and circular approach with complementary actions both across the plastics lifecycle and with existing instruments.

The preamble should also underscore the significance of best available science including Indigenous and local knowledge, the necessity for evidence-based actions, and the importance of encouraging research, innovation, and collaboration to enable the implementation of the instrument. Canada strongly supports the inclusion of references to human rights and the rights of Indigenous peoples.

For principles:

We view that principles could be reflected within the preamble of the instrument. The principles should help interpret the operative provisions in a way that best reaffirms the ambition of the instrument and helps ensures its effective implementation. The principles included in the instrument’s text should align with and build on the foundation of UNEA resolution 5/14. In particular, Canada is supportive of reflecting the precautionary principle, polluter pays principle, human rights approach, including the rights of Indigenous Peoples and gender equality, supporting a just transition.

In regards to definitions:

Canada agrees that definitions or descriptions of terms that are contained within the instrument may be required to support its implementation and achieving a shared understanding of the provisions. This may be described within the provisions themselves or be identified within a designated section of the instrument. Terminology should consider existing definitions where possible as a starting point.

Finally for scope:

We are of the opinion that the UNEA resolution 5-14 provides the adequate basis for the scope of instrument and it should cover the full lifecycle of plastics. Canada sees the instrument to include all plastics, of all sizes, and composition, fossil fuel and biomass based, plastic-
associated chemicals, and plastic waste not addressed through other multilateral environmental agreements. All sources of plastic pollution should be included, with a particular focus on those that are prevalent in the environment, pose a risk to the environment or human health and impede circularity.

It is Canada’s view that substantive negotiations can progress at the same time than finalizing the preamble, principles, scope and definitions, recognizing that these areas need to support the provisions.

Thank you co-facilitator.