Muchas gracias Señor Presidente. I speak on behalf of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The ambitious deadline in UNEA Resolution 5/14 reflects the urgency of addressing the dimension of plastic pollution including its impacts on our rights, health and environment. INC 2 has shown the global community that when there is will, multilateralism rooted in our common humanity can help us advance common objectives. We have run out of time for compromised solutions.

As Resolution 5/14 acknowledges the full life cycle approach, obligations need to be expanded to include pollution and remediation from all phases of the lifecycle including existing pollution in the upstream and midstream lifecycle phases.

Along with the visible mounds of legacy waste, the existing pollution caused by petrochemical companies, plastic product manufacturing facilities and waste to energy facilities need to be addressed. Implications of pollution in the upstream and midstream include health impacts of emissions on workers and frontline communities living near the facilities of these plants including in particular their impact on women and children. It also includes impact on livelihood of farmers, fishers and others. These facilities are also detrimental to biodiversity, especially when they are located in coastal areas and other biologically diverse areas like forests, lakes and river ecosystems.

Rio Principle 10, which was adopted 31 years ago and intended to guide countries in a vision for sustainable development established that the rights to access information, public participation and access to justice are key pillars of sound environmental governance, and are very important in promoting transparent, inclusive and accountable environmental action. These human rights must be adequately reflected in the zero draft.
We also warmly welcome and support the delegations that have made specific references to human rights in the past days (including Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, South Africa, Tuvalu, Uruguay, the EU and GRULAC) and other countries that have included human rights in their submissions to INC 2 (including the Cook Islands, Sierra Leone, the Federated States of Micronesia and New Zealand). These contributions were echoed by many observers, including children, youth, women, Indigenous Peoples, waste pickers, and frontline communities, amongst others, who have intervened this week.

We encourage their calls to be supported by other delegations and duly reflected in the zero draft. Please listen to those who are on the frontline of the toxic tidal wave of plastics that humanity has created and respect, protect and fulfil their human rights. We must strive to address plastics pollution as the human rights crisis it is.

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights looks forward to continuing engaging with delegations and stakeholders in this process.

Thank you for your consideration.