Thank you co-facilitators for the floor.

I speak in my national capacity for the Cook Islands while aligned with the statement given by the Pacific Small Islands Developing States (PSIDs) yesterday on primary plastic polymers.

We recognize that this is a large body of intersessional work and not all of it can be prioritized given the limited capacity and time, in particular for SIDS.

That being said, Cook Islands have consistently highlighted the need for ambitious action on both primary plastic polymers and chemicals and polymers of concern. We see these issues are critical to advance good-faith discussion and information exchange in the intersessional period. We cannot practically advance the discussion of control measures without doing this work. We understand that these work streams would not pre-judge the outcomes of the negotiations.

We would therefore add our support again to the proposal from Rwanda and Senegal on primary plastic production and also that of Switzerland on chemicals and polymers of concern as priority topics for intersessional work.

Finally, we can see that more informal work could be advanced intersessionally, with interested governments and stakeholders collaborating to progress different topics. For the fishing gear work, we could see benefit in providing a mandate to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to undertake the work and report back to INC-4.

On finance, we also see the benefit of intersessional work to further identify the activities and costs to be covered under the new instrument, to exchange views on the potential structure or structures of a financial mechanism for delivering such assistance and explore the potential for innovative finance.

We underscore the importance of meaningful participation of PSIDS in this and all other intersessional work.

Thank you.