Agenda item 4 – Cuba’s statement

Mr. President:

My delegation thanks the Government of Kenya for hosting this meeting.

Cuba has been actively participating since the beginning of the negotiation process of the legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, as we consider that it is necessary to stop the increase of existing pollution at a global level, which represents a serious environmental problem and it has negative impacts on the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, especially of small island states.

In that sense, we support resolution 5/14 approved at the UNEA as the guiding document for the work in the INC and we recognize the hard task carried out by you, Ambassador Meza-Cuadras as President of the INC, of preparing the Zero Draft.

However, with complete transparency we express our concern that the Zero Draft does not include all the diversity of positions and criteria expressed by the delegations in sessions 1 and 2 of the INC.

Several of the provisions and options presented exceed the mandate established in operative paragraph 3 of Resolution 5/14.

Cuba reiterates that the instrument is about plastic pollution and not about the elimination of these products themselves or the control of their international trade.

It is striking that one of the most important provisions for the objective of the instrument, which is the one related to Current Pollution (article 11 of the Zero Draft), is voluntary in nature, since it refers only to “cooperation” between the Parties, which is completely insufficient.

The options contained do not take into account the national circumstances of each country and the existing differences in the economic, social and environmental order, even when the levels and sources of plastic pollution differ from one country to another.
Nor is there any differentiated treatment for developing countries, in accordance with the Principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities.

Mr. President,

Taking into account the above and the interest in advancing the negotiation of the Instrument, we consider that at the end of this meeting it is necessary to have a text that contains all the positions of the States and groups of countries, with specific language proposals. We want to start working with a text that is the result of inputs from the States and not the interpretation of a third party. Otherwise, we will be facing the same situation in INC 4.

For this reason, we share the concern expressed by Iran, on behalf of the Group of Like-Minded Countries, about the need to have a clear mandate for the work of the Contact Groups, which allows for the incorporation of all existing positions.

We also consider that, once we have an initial negotiation text, we should begin to negotiate the provisions in which we could move more quickly towards a consensus, that is, those that do not contain the Zero option, which means not including any regulation on the topic in question within the Instrument.

My delegation considers that this is the way to guarantee the success of our work and reiterates the commitment to contribute in a constructive and transparent manner to the efforts to achieve a balanced instrument that can be ratified by the vast majority of States.

Thank you so much.