Mr. Chairman,

ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me pleasure at the outset to express appreciation to the INC President and secretariat for their support to efforts aimed at achieving the Legally Binding Instrument ON Plastic Pollution, including in Marine Environment, as mandated by UNEA resolution 5/14. I would also like to commend UNEP and the People and Government of Kenya for hosting the third Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-3) meeting, where all environment-related meetings and negotiations should be held.

Mr. Chairman,

When incepted last century, plastic was considered a massive breakthrough innovation originally supporting the environment and biodiversity protection, as an alternative to the use of ivory in many industries at that time. Yet, with the passage of time, and the piling up of plastic waste due to lack of adequate measures to dispose of and recycle it, plastic pollution has become a major world environmental problem.
In this spirit, it is important to focus our efforts on devising an instrument that will end Plastic Pollution, as mandated. In doing so, we need to maintain a State-driven comprehensive approach that takes into account the common but differentiated responsibilities, and the varying circumstances worldwide, as well as the developmental goals and needs, upholding the right to development so as to ensure that no one is left behind.

Mr. Chairman,

Egypt shares some of the concerns expressed by a number of previous speakers. We believe that for the successful conclusion of our collective efforts, we need to embark on solid grounds, within the scope of the existing mandate. Egypt is of the opinion that ideas to be incorporated in the text should not deviate from that mandate, and should aim at striking the balance needed to reach a consensual and comprehensive mechanism in order for it to be applicable. It should be in line with the modalities of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), resting on two balanced pillars, namely pledges and means of implementation. Egypt calls in this regard for striking a sufficient equilibrium between obligations and means of
implementation, and for a negotiation process that is equitable, inclusive and transparent, which recognizes the important contributions of plastic in society, promoting its sustainable production and consumption.

On the other hand, it is crucial to ensure effective implementation based on an incremental bottom-up approach, which provides sufficient flexibility to developing countries, along with fair and equitable access to finance, new and affordable technologies, technical and human capacitation, with a vision to promote a just transition while bearing into consideration the relevant socio-economic implications. It should be guided by the internationally-agreed and well-established principles in UNEA Resolution 5/14, such as Equity, Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities. Varying particularities and circumstances of States should be taken into consideration, allowing them to tailor their national plans according to their specific needs, priorities, and capabilities.

In parallel, efforts should be made to promote the development and adoption of safe alternatives to hazardous chemicals, with a view to ensuring technology transfer and the provision of additional, adequate, predictable, and sustainable
finance to such alternatives, as well as promoting sustainable practices within relevant industries. Any substitutes or alternatives to plastic polymers should be made available to developing countries, at fair and affordable prices.

Equally important is the need to establish a socio-economic-scientific body to bolster implementation of the outcome, and assist in estimating the funding required for the developing countries in this regard. Modalities for its composition should meet Member States’ consensus, and based on balanced representation of both developed and developing countries. Finally, Egypt would like to echo the call made by His Excellency President Ruto during the opening session to base the Secretariat in Nairobi. In fact, Egypt is of the view that, for the sake of efficiency, coordination and rationalization of resources, the secretariat of any new environment-related international agreement should be based in Nairobi, the only United Nations headquarters in the Global South.

I THANK YOU.