General statement of the EU and its MS on general views on document
UNEP/PP/INC.2/4

Mr Chair, distinguished delegates,

The EU and its Member States would like to thank the INC Secretariat for their excellent work on preparing the Options Paper.

We believe that this is a comprehensive document, reflecting the views expressed in written submissions in a balanced manner. In particular, we are satisfied that contributions from stakeholders have been so well picked up by members submissions and by the Options Paper. As such the paper is a good starting point for our negotiations this week.

We find all the elements of the Options Paper to be equally relevant for the future agreement and equal time should be given for discussion on all of them. We are ready to swiftly move into contact groups for a more indepth discussion. In so doing, it is our understanding that countries and stakeholders should be given the opportunity to express their preferences or concerns, with the options offered without either proposing specific legal drafting or getting into technical details of specific measures.

We have set ourselves an ambitious goal in concluding negotiations by the end of 2024. With this in mind we commend your leadership and support your suggestions, as expressed in the scenario note, to here in Paris agree on a mandate for a zero draft text of the instrument for consideration at the third session of the committee. We therefore believe that we need to use the contact groups to not only find convergence and gaps but also to deepen our understanding on how the different provision should be further developed to in the soldest possible way contribute to the objective of the agreement.

The EU and its Member States welcome the fact that the submissions by countries and stakeholders were so ambitious and that the Options Paper reflects the high level of ambition that we wish to see in the future instrument. We are convinced that we will find a lot of convergence with other members on this. We will listen carefully to the opinions of other. We are open to discuss these elements and we will be providing targeted comments during the week. Also, we would welcome and encourage input from all stakeholders on the options
presented, especially in the contact groups, as their input can and should meaningfully inform discussions.

We are ready to support you, Mr Chair, and the co-facilitators in your efforts to achieve this. We are encouraging other members to do the same.

We believe that technical intersessional work will be central to the success of the negotiations. In considering such work we believe we need to look beyond the time period between INC 2 and INC 3. While considering limited time and resources between now and as we meet in Nairobi we hope that we can leave here with a clear path on intersessional work that could be further developed by future INC-meetings. The deliberations in the contact groups will be central in this task.

Mr Chair, esteemed colleagues,

With the possibility to have an exchange on the options Paper, we are one decisive step further in reaching an agreement to end plastic pollution. But there is still a long way to go until the end of 2024 and the world is watching us. So let’s put this week to good use and demonstrate that the global community is resolute to complete its task – the EU and its Member States are ready to engage and prepare the ground for a new ambitious legally binding international instrument to end plastic pollution.