Mr Chair,

1. At the outset, Fiji would like to extend its gratitude to the people and Government of Kenya for their hospitality and warm welcome. We also would like to thank you Chair, and the Secretariat for the efforts in formulating the Zero Draft (ZD) as the foundation for the INC3 negotiations.

2. Fiji aligns with the statement delivered by [Samoa on behalf of the AOSIS] and Palau on behalf of the PSIDS. We stand firm in supporting resolution 5/14 to achieve the ultimate objective of ending plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, in order to protect human health and the environment.

3. Mr. Chair, in order to achieve this, we need a robust instrument that is strong, comprehensive, specific, time-bound and measurable while clearly communicating the broad scope of the instrument, without re-writing or re-interpreting the legality of existing principles.

4. The objective of the instrument should:
   a. Cover the full lifespan of plastics from extraction and production to its end-of-life management, taking into account the disproportionate impacts of plastic pollution on (SIDS), the Large Ocean Small Island Developing States (LOSIDS);
   b. The reduction of primary plastic polymer production, polymers and chemicals of concern and problematic and avoidable plastic polymers and products should be ambitious and time-bound;
c. Fiji supports a [dedicated] multilateral fund as a means to provide adequate and stable financial and technical assistance {potentially modelled on the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol} and existing financing mechanisms should be leveraged, such as the GEF – possibly through a dedicated window.

5. **Mr Chair**, Fiji like all other PSIDs are net importers of plastics. We are on the receiving end and so is our ‘moana’, the ocean that we so crucially depend on for our survival. The convenience obtained by utilizing plastics does not justify large-scale and nearly irreparable contamination of the Pacific Ocean, its natural resources, the costs to the health of our people now and for generations to come.

6. Often these costs exceed the market value of plastics and include the cost of loss of ecosystem services, greenhouse gas emissions, human health costs and waste (mis)management costs.

**Mr. Chair**, Fiji firmly believes that the instrument should recognise and consider diverse value systems and concepts, including the rights of nature and the land [Vanua]. In Fiji, our [Vanua] land relates to the interconnectedness to the foundations of life on earth and includes the natural terrain, local flora and fauna, rivers, mountains and much more. Plastic pollution is straining the connection we have to our land [Vanua].

7. **Mr. Chair**, like other Pacific Islands Member States, my delegation have travelled a long way to be here. As I speak there is a category 2 cyclone closing in on our beloved homeland. Such natural disasters exacerbates the impacts of plastic pollution and increases the vulnerability of our people and our oceans. We implore fellow members to just ‘get on with our discussions and progress with an ambitious, effective and equitable Instrument to end plastic pollution once and for all and ensuring that none is left behind.

I thank you Chair.