From: Fiji Delegation

To: UNEP Secretariat (INC Plastics Statements)

Subject: Fiji Islands National Interventions at Contact Group 3 on Part I (Preamble, definitions, principles, scope)

Submission Date: 14 November 2023

1. Thank you esteemed co-facilitators for giving Fiji the floor.

2. Fiji aligns with the interventions made by Samoa on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States and the Federated States of Micronesia speaking on behalf of Pacific Small Island Developing States on the preamble, objectives, definitions, principles and scope.

3. With regard to the scope, we stress that it is NOT necessary for the instrument to include a provision on scope, rather the scope should be derived from the mandate of UNEA Resolution 5/14 and the proposed objective to end plastic pollution, including in the marine environment across the full life cycle of plastic.

4. Madam co-facilitator, Members have already agreed to the scope of the new instrument through UNEA Resolution 5/14. The scope has been further articulated and captured in the proposed objectives supported by members at the first and second INCs. We believe that the proposed objectives adequately cover the instruments intended range of operation, purpose and desired outcome. Thus, a dedicated provision on scope is not necessary and members should not spend a substantial amount of time discussing this topic.

5. With regard to the principles, Fiji wishes to add to the principles expanded on by Samoa, on behalf of small island developing states, to recognize the impacts of plastic pollution on human rights. Plastics are a global threat to human rights, including not only the right to a healthy environment but also the rights to life, health, food, water and an adequate standard of living. Plastics are choking our waterways and poisoning our vital food systems, affecting our peoples’ cultural, economic and social connections to our Moana, our ocean.

6. Thank you co-facilitators.