Mr. Chair, Distinguish delegates Ladies and Gentlemen, The Gambia delegation would like to thank the Government of the Republic of Kenya for hosting the INC-3, and the Secretariat for organizing this meeting and the provision of the ZERO draft for this negotiations.

Mr. Chair, The Government of Republic of The Gambia attaches high priority to reducing and eventually eliminating issues related to plastics pollution and promoting sound management of plastic pollution and wastes and therefore aligned herself to statement read by distinguished delegate of Ghana on behalf of the African Region.

Cognizance of the negative impacts Plastics pollution poses to the health and environment of current and future generation, The Gambia is with the view that the primary and ultimate goal of every nation is to protect human health and the environment from the risks posed by the unsound use, management and releases of plastics and related waste into the environment we all depend for our living.

As protection of the environment is at the highest level of priority, the Gambia has developed national policies and legislations that are geared towards the protection of the environment for the present and future generation. In that, the country in 2007 enacted Anti- Littering Regulation
which is meant to limit indiscriminate littering in the country which includes plastics and related waste.

This was subsequently followed by the ban on Plastic Bag Order 2015 which prohibits the importation, sales, manufacture and use of single use plastic bags in The Gambia.

This to a higher extent has yielded positive result in reducing the amount of plastic and related waste generated over the years, and no waste is allowed into in the country thus leading to the use of reusable bags and recycle material in the country as well as phasing out single use plastic.

In conclusion, Mr. Chair, we strongly reaffirm to aligning our commitment in joining global efforts in addressing environmental challenges particularly on plastic pollution and related waste which continues to threaten live and humanity. We strongly believe ending plastic pollution requires collective responsibilities irrespective of the economic status of our countries, taking into consideration our national realities as a developing country.

We are ready to partner with all (member state or organization) in enhancing our national efforts in making the planet a better place for us and generations to come.

Collectively, we can all make a difference in paving solutions to a comprehensive life-cycle approach to prevent plastic pollution.

I THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION