Distinguished Delegates, Excellencies, Colleagues,

It is my honor to be with you on behalf of the government of Georgia at the INC3 and be part of the work dedicated to find the solution for the plastic pollution.

On behalf of Georgia I would like to thank UNEP and INC secretariat for the continued efforts to end plastic pollution by 2040. We would like to thank the government of Kenya for hosting Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC3) on Legally binding document at the beautiful UN premises in Nairobi.

We believe that legally binding document for us for the countries with economic development will create new possibilities, new capacities, improvements in the sound management of plastic waste, which will contribute to the circular economy development and to the improvement of environmental standards and approaches.

We believe that zero draft is a good starting document for the further negotiation. Thank you chair for your efforts! We have now opportunity to come up with some of missing parts in the zero draft and we will move forward to work on that.

We are committed to work towards plastic pollution through a life cycle approach and sound management of the waste. We believe that Extended producer responsibility approach is appropriate and useful to involve private sector accordingly and find solutions for financing full life cycle of plastic. We are open to considering EPR schemes and specific details to national action plans and other means, as we already introduced EPR at national level.

We took some steps at national level to ban single used plastic bags and propose alternatives; We developed national strategy for plastic prevention and also we included plastic waste management as one of the priority at national waste management strategy and action plan in the last year and we have already started projects for plastic waste prevention in the river basin with support of the UNDP, WB and Norwegian Embassy in Georgia.

We believe that sustainable production and consumption of plastic, sound management of plastic waste using waste management hierarchy and sound management of chemicals and waste will give us possibilities moving towards a treaty that can make important changes. We are requiring strong scientific background and synergies with the legally binding instruments, MEAs such as BRS conventions and others;

We are confident that there is a need to discuss the importance of eligibility and accessibility to financial support and capacity building for the developing countries and countries with economies in transition. We are open to discuss approaches and ideas for the successful implementation of legally binding document which will create at national level the useful backgrounds for the collaboration and development of public private partnership.

We affirm, that we are committed to work towards plastic pollution through a life cycle approach and improving waste management systems.

As it was mentioned this spirit of global collaboration and that we can achieve more by coming together is something I strongly believe in.

I thank you!