My sincere thanks and appreciation to Government of Guinea for making it possible for me to be here today and French Government for welcoming everybody here in France.

And also my warm welcome to countries, businesses, stakeholders and civil societies for attending this second round of negotiations today organised by competent and hard working INC. office.

The rapidly increasing levels of plastic pollution represent a serious global environmental, socio-economic and health problems. Under business-as-usual scenario and in the absence of necessary intervention, the amount of plastic waste entering our aquatic ecosystems could nearly triple from 9-14million tons per year in 2016 to about 23-37million tons per year by 2040.

Mr President; This massive amount of plastic pollution will wreak immense havoc on our ecosystems, If urgent steps are not taken to ameliorate the ugly situation.

Human wellbeing depends on nature and economic development, but it can no longer come at nature’s expense. As a result, we must work together to help countries mainstream nature into economic decisions, including making the private sector part of the solution for people and nature.

We must come together and pledge to protect our natural environment at all cost to shape tomorrow’s world. We, everyone in the world have only little time to stop plastic pollution, otherwise, the scale of the problem will be out of control.

The Government of Guinea strongly welcomes the ongoing process for a global plastic treaty and supports the partnerships in place in order to eliminate and remediate plastic pollution and enhance circular plastic management at local, regional and global levels. We urge parties to adopt clear and verifiable objectives in order to take a bold step in the positive direction by 2025 to curb further plastic pollution from single-use plastic products in protected areas, land, water and marine environment. We strongly encourage parties to start negotiations with the ultimate goal of stopping plastic pollution worldwide by 2030.

Parties should consider national, local circumstances and capabilities for implementation along the whole plastic value.
The Government of Guinea calls for inclusiveness in the process and an effective treaty as an outcome. The treaty must address the full life cycle of plastics, embrace, science based tools, cover a broad scope of environmental resources (land, air, ocean) and create a set of policy measures and means of implementation of upscale and redirect finance incentives and trade. Strong stakeholders and involvement in the upcoming negotiations and implementation is crucial.

This process of negotiations to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment is shared by the overwhelming majority of mankind and the Government of Guinea stands to support and implement the outcome of the negotiations. Thank you.