Thank you, Chairman for the opportunity to make a statement. Your excellences, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, my name is Jihane Ball and I am speaking on behalf of the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA).

ICCA continues to advocate for an equitable and implementable agreement that becomes a catalyst for plastics circularity and maximizes the participation of UN member states. We appreciate the work of governments to improve the zero draft and to recognize the role of circularity in minimizing waste and addressing plastic pollution. While encouraged by the progress made, we believe more intentional support of circularity is needed to create the necessary demand signals for the transition to an inclusive circular economy.

Enabling policies, including recyclability and recycled content targets at the country level, complemented by well-designed EPR schemes, provide the necessary demand signals and would promote innovations in product design for circularity. They would also unleash investments to enhance waste management infrastructure. Companies have already invested nearly 20 billion dollars to meet demand for recycled materials in the value chain. However, unlocking the waste to meet this market demand without supporting policies is a challenge, especially where infrastructure is lacking or has significant gaps.

Lastly, we support increased transparency and sound management of chemicals in plastics. To this end, we are developing a plastics additives database to aggregate existing information from manufacturers and chemical management regulations. We encourage coordination across existing multilateral agreements on chemicals management to reduce duplication of efforts and increase information sharing.

Thank you, Chair.