Chairperson,

Excellences and distinguished delegates,

Malawi expresses gratitude to the Government of Kenya for its warm hospitality and we also extend our sincere appreciation to the INC secretariat for their dedicated efforts in preparing the working documents.

Malawi believes that the scope of the legally binding instrument must be guided by UNEA Resolution 5/14 in order to build upon the extensive discussions and consensus achieved at UNEA. Drawing inspiration from UNEA Resolution 5/14, we should reaffirm the Rio Principles, principles that resonate deeply with the sustainability of our planet. These principles encompass the importance of sustainable development, while underlining the necessity for transboundary environmental justice, the precautionary principle and the polluter pays principle. Embracing these principles, we can pave the way for a treaty that stands on a robust foundation of equity, responsibility, and environmental protection.

In our deliberations, let us not forget the practical elements that will make our treaty effective. We propose the inclusion of an annex on key principles and minimum requirements for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) systems. This annex will provide standardized guidelines to minimize plastic waste, particularly in priority sectors like packaging.

Furthermore, our commitment to a sustainable circular economy for plastics demands that we minimize the release of harmful substances into the environment. To achieve this, we must set criteria for eliminating hazardous chemicals and polymers in plastics, while embracing the concept of sustainable plastic design with non-toxicity as a central criterion.

As we proceed, let us also consider potential areas for intersessional work. We must explore the scope and guidance for National Action Plans (NAPs) that empower nations, particularly those in the developing world, to make context-specific decisions. Additionally we also propose a dedicated body to foster discussions relating to technology transfer on mutually agreed terms to enable the adoption of environmentally sound technologies.
Mr Chair, to effectively implement this agreement, it is imperative to identify and address capacity building and training needs for each member. Tailored programs can be designed to enhance waste management capabilities, strengthen policy development skills, and improve monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.

In conclusion, Malawi urges all members to refrain from duplicating previous efforts already undertaken under other multilateral agreements or deviating from globally acceptable norms and principles. Instead we urge the Committee to draw upon best sustainable practices based on available scientific evidence. Therefore Let us forge ahead while approaching this task at this INC with innovation and forward-thinking solutions to create a successful, legally binding instrument.