Thank you, Mr Chair, for allowing Malaysia to take the floor. Malaysia would like to align ourself to the statements made by Philippines on behalf of Asia Pacific Group and Singapore on behalf of the COBSEA countries.

At the outset, Malaysia would like to express our appreciation for the work and commitment by the Chair and the Secretariat in preparing the zero draft and the synthesis report which both are important to our current discussion. Malaysia views these documents as a strong basis for us to start looking at the details and eliminate unwanted devils. To the government of Kenya, we thank you for hosting the INC-3, and for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to us.

Esteemed Delegates,

In the heart of our concerns, lies not just an environmental crisis, but an economic dilemma that threatens the very fabric of our developing nations. We urge you to grasp the urgency and depth of our plea, a plea rooted in the realities of our economies and the livelihoods of millions.

Driving Transition, Not Just Restricting

It is not enough to merely impose restrictions; the treaty we envision must ignite a profound transition. We implore you to understand that limitations alone won’t catalyse and drive the change we need. This treaty must propel the circularity of plastics, transforming waste into resources and nurturing innovative industries in our nations.

Balancing Demand and Supply

A balanced approach is our lifeline. Restricting the supply of primary polymers without considering market demands will shackle our potential. Such constraints impede investment and stifle innovation, hindering our very right to development, especially for countries striving to uplift their economies. This treaty should also promote a demand-driven approach for circularity.

The Southeast Asia Waste Challenge

The Systemiq projections cast a shadow, a shadow that falls heavily upon Southeast Asia. The anticipated surge in waste volumes, channelling towards disposal facilities, threatens to drown us, even under the Global Rules Scenario. We foresee a future where compliance with
the treaty’s noble goals becomes an impossible challenge, risking our economies and well-being.

**Nationally Determined Targets**

We stand firm in our belief that our nation knows its needs best. The treaty must be country-driven, allowing us to set targets and actions that align with our unique circumstances. Our path to sustainability cannot be dictated; it must be determined nationally, ensuring a just transition that respects our developmental pace.

**Leveraging Existing Initiatives**

We urge against reinventing the wheel. Countless hours have been invested regionally and nationally to combat plastic pollution. These include not only initiatives by the Government, and regional cooperation under the regional seas program, but also efforts by the industry, private sector and civil society to move towards sustainable consumption and production and effective recovery of plastic waste. The treaty should leverage these initiatives, building upon the work already done. Let us not waste resources duplicating efforts but unify our strengths to fight the battle collectively.

**Trust and Transparency**

To establish an impactful instrument, that will really protect the environment from plastic pollution, and transform the world’s plastic industry, all stakeholders must agree to approach and attempt to discuss about the difficult aspects of realizing the treaty’s ambition. Governments must play a supportive and facilitative role in driving actions towards the Treaty’s goal, the industry must aim to commit and deliver their commitments in a transparent manner and the civil society must play the ‘check and balance’ role. Only with trust can all stakeholders build confidence and establish collaboration towards ending plastic pollution.

**The Imperative of a Global Circular Economy**

Lastly, we stress the need for a clear and legitimate platform, a platform that nurtures a global circular economy. We implore you to understand that our economies are intertwined globally; we need a space where ideas, technologies, and resources can flow seamlessly, fostering growth and sustainability.

In closing, we urgently call for you to comprehend the critical balance our economies hang upon. This treaty cannot be a mere aspiration; it must be our lifeline, our passport to a future where economic prosperity aligns harmoniously with environmental sustainability. Let this treaty be the beacon, guiding our nations toward a just, balanced, and prosperous tomorrow.
Thank you.