Thank you, Mr Co-Facilitator, for allowing Malaysia to take the floor and share our views on the current discussion with particular interest on the scope of the agreement.

Malaysia supports the mandated scope under the UNEA Resolution 5/14, encompassing the entire life cycle of plastic. This comprehensive approach ensures that efforts to combat plastic pollution are integrated at every stage, from the production of plastic to its disposal.

However, to effectively implement this commitment, it’s crucial to clearly define the starting and ending points within the plastic life cycle that will be governed. Specific identification is essential to avoid duplicating existing agreements and to develop precise, targeted obligations.

In this regard, it is vital to recognize that upstream processes involving the extraction of raw materials, such as oil and gas for primary polymer production, must not fall under this agreement.

It is also important to acknowledge that these raw materials serve various other sectors, including energy, transport, heavy industry, and specialized product manufacturing. Greenhouse gas reduction and decarbonization obligations covering processes like oil and gas extraction are already meticulously governed under the UNFCCC and are better positioned to address those negative externalities related to climate change. Targeting solely on the plastic manufacturing industry, particularly on greenhouse gas emission reduction, would be unjust and unreasonable. Such an approach contradicts the principle of equal responsibility among producers, leading to concerns about free riding and selective targeting.

Therefore, Malaysia proposes that this agreement considers the plastic life cycle starting from the polymerization process, where monomers are combined to form primary polymers used in plastic product manufacturing. Controlling this polymerization process under the agreement is vital as additives, including chemicals contributing to environmental pollution and human health problems, are introduced. By focusing on the polymerization stage, we can effectively address environmental concerns related to plastic waste and human health while ensuring fairness and equality among producers.

On another note, echoing other countries who have highlighted the trade perspective in the context of the plastic treaty, Malaysia is of the view that this treaty should enable and facilitate trade transition rather than focusing on trade restriction as the backbone of the treaty. It should not impede the right to development, especially for developing countries.

Thank you.
ON INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS:

Malaysia would like to align our view and support Indonesia, Brazil and other delegations for the establishment of a dedicated governing body on financial mechanism of this treaty to ensure flow of finance to member states in implement this treaty. We also support for the establishment of scientific, technical and economic panels to assess and address the impact of policy interventions.

Additionally, Malaysia would like to suggest for the committee to also explore the potential and benefit of establishing a dedicated subsidiary body specifically to ensure the success, monitor progress and compliance of global circularity/global circular economy for plastic. This is important as this body will be able to ensure a legitimate and verified processes across regions and among countries, taking into account the gaps under Basel Convention and other MEAs.

Thank you.