Respected Chairman,
Excellencies,
Secretary and
Distinguished Delegates!

Behalf of the Government of Nepal and my delegation, I would like to extend our thanks with appreciation to the organizer, Governments of France for organizing this INC2 Meeting and the warm hospitality we received in the Paris. It is a matter of great pleasure and privilege for me to participate in this meeting. I also would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the UN Environment Program for the continued support and Cooperation.

We are aware of very troublesome issues of plastic pollution. So, we are here to discuss the need for more strengthened and collaborative efforts from all nations to show our firm commitment to reduce the plastic pollution. In this regard, enabling policies and their effective implementation is the responsibility of all member governments. To curb the problem of hazardous wastes disposal, wastes containing or contaminated with micro plastic wastes and for their disposal, we have to establish, expand and strengthen functional collaboration among all stakeholders at the local, national, regional and global levels.
The Government of Nepal is keen on mitigating the consequences caused by plastic pollution. Therefore, various initiatives have been taken like developing appropriate legal instruments, institutional and financial arrangements to control Pollution. Since October 4, 2021 Government of Nepal had announced a complete legal ban on the production, import, sales, distribution and use of plastic bags having thickness less than 40 micron. Similarly, of Nepal further extends its legal restriction on import, sales, distribution and use of plastic flower bouquets in Nepal since July 28, 2022 in order to reduce the environmental pollution caused by such single use plastic article. In order to effectively control the use of plastic bags government of Nepal encourages production, distribution and use of cotton, jute or paper bags.

Nepal is one of the mountainous countries. High Himalayas and mountains are major attraction of the country which attract large number of domestic and international tourists throughout the year. However, such a touristic activity is responsible for the generation of huge and unmanageable volume of plastic wastes, that are finally ending up as traces in the open landscapes of high mountains. In due course of time fragmentation of these plastic waste can lead to microplastics formation and accumulation in the Himalayas for a long period of time and ultimate release into freshwater rivers originating from Himalayas. These remote area with difficult topography, ever changing climatic condition possess limited resources and lack of adequate infrastructure that increases incomparable challenges in minimizing and managing plastic waste. Therefore, delegation from Nepal, I humbly would like to put this concern before all the member states to kindly ensure the measures to be taken to address the issues of plastic pollution in the Himalayas and Mountain regions. In days to
ever increasing plastic pollution in the Himalayas and Mountains would probably put all the water bodies in risk.

I would like to reassure here that the Government of Nepal is fully committed towards the protection of the environment through the development and effective enforcement of policies, legislations, action plans and programs in line with the national commitment in international forums. In this regard, we urge UN Environment and Development partners to focus efforts in capacity building, technical assistance, technology transfer and financial assistance is a vital for all under developed and developing member states.

Finally, the Government of Nepal expresses its firm belief that meaningful support and cooperation from all member states, development partners, UN agencies, and international institutions will be continued to Nepal.

Thank you!!!