Thank you co-facilitator.

In the interests of time, New Zealand will speak on Definitions and Scope.

As with many other delegations, New Zealand supports defining terms that are critical to understanding and implementing the proposed measures in the zero draft. We agree that negotiating time need not be spent on definitions not strictly necessary for the instrument’s purpose.

New Zealand supports a number of the definitions in the synthesis report, for example for avoidable and problematic plastics, plastic products, microplastics, and lifecycle. With regard to lifecycle, New Zealand is particularly supportive that it starts at raw material acquisition.

We consider that a definition on plastics is critical to the scope and implementation of the instrument. New Zealand supports a definition that explicitly captures both fossil- and bio-based plastics. Specifically, New Zealand would like to see a plastics definition that includes plastic materials, plastic products and products that contain plastic made from any source material. We recognise that certain measures may be targeted to certain types of plastics or certain sectors.

Similarly, we support defining “primary plastic polymers” as plastics manufactured from fossil-based or biobased feedstock that has never been used or processed before. New Zealand generally supports the definition for “circular economy” in the Synthesis Report, but we would like to see indigenous and traditional knowledge reflected in this definition. Any definition should also acknowledge the role of a range of materials and systems that support a circular economy.

New Zealand has identified additional terms that we would like defined in the instrument, including a consistent approach to the use of the term safe and environmentally sound with a definition that is preferably consistent with the Basel Convention’s definition for environmentally sound management, a strong definition for reuse, as well as for the terms emissions and releases used in Part II section 8 of the ZD. We support further discussion on these definitions in contact group 3.

On scope, as per our submission and many other countries’ submissions, New Zealand supports UNEA resolution 5/14 providing the basis for the scope of the future instrument.

We support a broadly scoped instrument that captures the full lifecycle of plastics, including from the extraction of raw materials through to disposal and pollution impacts on ecosystems and human health. New Zealand echoes the views of the EU and we do not support the exclusions set out in paragraph 43 of the synthesis report as we consider that raw materials and primary polymers are very clearly in scope of the full lifecycle of plastics. We were pleased to see this reflected in the Synthesis Report. Echoing the views of the EU, Mexico, Switzerland and others, New Zealand does not see the need to spend more valuable time discussing scope.

Thank you