Thank you Chair,

Excellencies, delegates, esteemed colleagues.

Ocean Conservancy extends heartfelt appreciation to Ambassador Meza-Cuadra of Peru, the Bureau, and the INC Secretariat for preparing the synthesis report, and gathering us here for this important meeting. We would also like to thank Kenya and UNEP for their warm hospitality in welcoming us all.

Ocean Conservancy supports the objective to end plastic pollution by 2040. As the guiding principle for the agreement, it is paramount that the objective includes language to protect human health, and terrestrial and marine environments.

Definitions of terms used in the agreement are essential to ensure clarity in a comprehensive instrument. The agreement should be inclusive across plastics and products, and build on established definitions in existing international fora such as the Basel Convention, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the OECD.

Furthermore, the agreement should be grounded in strong principles building on those in other multilateral environmental agreements to guide implementation, such as the Precautionary and Prevention Principle, the Polluter Pays Principle, and the Science-Based Approach Principle, among others.

We encourage the member states to work intersessionally with scientists and leading experts to advance work on topics, including sources and pathways of microplastics, both primary and secondary, work with relevant stakeholders on fishing gear in the lifecycle of plastics, and identification of problematic and avoidable plastics to be phased out.

Finally, we want to highlight the critical importance of the means of implementation of the agreement, in particular, finance. Ocean Conservancy supports that the committee develops intersessional work focused on a potential hybrid financing mechanism that could be leveraged for effective realization of the ILBI, in particular in vulnerable countries or those disproportionately burdened by the effects of plastic pollution, such as Small Island Developing States.

We look forward to our continued discussion on these topics during the negotiations that are about to begin, and we wish you all a fruitful and productive discussion these coming days.

Thank you, Chair.