Delivered by: Ianthe B. Douglas

**Thank you, Mr. Co-facilitator,**

Palau would first like to thank the Government and the People of Kenya for hosting us here in their beautiful country, and to also thank the Chair and the Secretariat for their hard work in preparation for this meeting. We also congratulate the two new co-facilitators and look forward to working with you during INC-3.

We align with the statement delivered by Samoa on behalf of AOSIS with regards to the Preamble, Definitions, and Scope and therefore our statement is specific to Principles.

Many of the principles highlighted in the Synthesis report are part of the Rio Principles and, as indicated in UNEA Resolution 5/14, could certainly be considered. In addition, other principles not included in the Rio principles should be considered to ensure that we have a good set of guidance for the implementation of this agreement.

As an initial matter, we are open to further discussions on whether to have a standalone principles section for the instrument. For the sake of discussion today, if we are to have such a standalone section, we see value in the inclusion of the following in addition to the Rio Principles:

a. The Special circumstances of SIDS, and flexibility for national capabilities and capacities of SIDS;
b. Public participation in environmental decision-making, including full and effective participation by Indigenous Peoples and local communities;
c. The use of best available science, data, and information;
d. The use of traditional knowledge, knowledge of Indigenous Peoples, and local knowledge systems, in accordance with the rights of the holders of such knowledge, including as reflected in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and international human rights law;
e. Zero waste hierarchy; and
f. Intra and inter-generational equity principle

Thank you Mr. Co-Facilitator and we look forward to further discussion in contact group 3.