Mr. Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

The Philippines is honored to join you this week in Nairobi for the 3rd session of the Inter-Governmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to develop a legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

We extend our gratitude to the Government of Kenya for hosting this meeting. We would also like to thank the Chair and the Secretariat for the preparations for this meeting.

The Philippines aligns itself with the statements of the Asia-Pacific Group and the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA).

Objective

We are ready to work constructively with all INC members towards an instrument that is based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastic, while contributing to the achievement of sustainable development.

General observations

The zero draft gives us a good starting point. It captures most of the discussions and the fault lines that surfaced at INC 1 and 2. We hope to fill in identified gaps at this INC session, particularly to address the needs of environmentally vulnerable developing countries.

The zero draft reflects the evolution of international law in addressing waste, expanding from downstream to upstream approaches. It parallels the evolution of our own domestic laws, which more than two decades ago mandated an ecological solid waste management framework, and expanded towards extended producer responsibility last year, alongside the Philippine Development Plan and Philippine Action Plan for Sustainable Consumption and Production.

Core obligations

The Philippines welcomes the high ambition reflected in zero draft provisions on binding global and nationally determined targets, including minimum requirements and targets. Under our national law, the Philippines set progressively increasing targets for recovery of plastic product footprint generated by obliged enterprises, building up to 80% recovery by the end of 2028.
Global standards, criteria, lists and harmonized information are also welcome and necessary complements to these binding targets. The Philippines believes the inextricability of plastics from the international economy necessitates these global standards. Specified modalities for achieving obligations nevertheless should take into consideration national circumstances.

Moreover, respect for human rights, and socio-economic opportunities lie in ensuring that a just transition truly leaves no one behind, especially in a country like the Philippines, where the informal sector plays a significant role in solid waste management.

**Means and tools of implementation**

High ambition in core obligations should be matched by equally high ambition in provision of means and tools of implementation for developing countries, particularly environmentally and ecologically vulnerable developing countries like the Philippines, affected as it is by its archipelagic setting, megadiversity, and climate change vulnerability.

The financing mechanism can take a two-step approach, designed for both early action support and long-term availability of adequate, timely support from a dedicated fund.

To fully comply with global standards and criteria, environmentally and ecologically vulnerable developing countries will need technology transfer on preferential and concessional terms, and research and development for endogenous capacities and technologies.

**Elements not discussed at INC-2**

These specific obligations should be set against the Rio Declaration Principles, as stated in UNEA Resolution 5/14, particularly common but differentiated responsibilities, precautionary principle, prevention of transboundary harm, and non-restriction of trade, and meaningful public participation.

In the Philippines, 86% of existing waste management and circular economy initiatives were led by the private sector and civil society. This reinforces our belief that there is sufficient available science for action now. These actions, including those to be borne out of this instrument, should be further strengthened by the democratization of the best available scientific knowledge, including socio-economic assessments, through the establishment of a science-policy body.

We need to ensure that this instrument is equitable, inclusive, and science-based. It is important to effectively respond to plastic pollution as part of a complex set of mutually reinforcing planetary threats, in a manner that does not further threaten, but rather protects, supports and improves human and environmental health, and human rights.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.