Thank you Chair,

The Republic of Korea would like to extend our deep appreciation for your leadership in the INC negotiation process. We also extend our gratitude to the government of France for their warm hospitality and to the Secretariat for preparing this meeting.

The Republic of Korea is committed to the work of the INC to fulfill the mandate given by the UNEA Resolution 5/14. We strongly support the overarching goal of eliminating plastic pollution and establishing circular economy that encompasses the full life-cycle of plastics. In this regard, we domestically revised our Resources Circulation Act, to Circular Economy Transition Act in 2022.

For our productive discussions here at INC, Korea would like to emphasize several elements that need to be prioritized.

First, the binding provisions of the instrument should incorporate nationally determined targets or actions, while taking into account the national circumstances of each Party.

Second, the instrument should address the measures that manage plastics in a sustainable manner throughout the full life-cycle, including their
production, consumption, and treatment of their wastes. Promoting value-added recycling such as material and chemical recycling, and utilizing alternatives such as biodegradable plastics are examples of those measures.

Third, to promote just-transition while achieving our common goal to end plastic pollution, ample consideration should be given to multi-stakeholders who will be mostly affected by the instrument.

Fourth, we are of the view that we need caution not to include in this new instrument any elements that might conflict with other existing international instruments, such as the Basel Conventions. Especially, we should take a prudent approach in including import and export regulations on plastics.

Last but not least, during the previous meeting, the Republic of Korea conveyed our intention to host the last round of the INC. We would like to reiterate our commitment to contributing to this invaluable process by welcoming you all in Korea next year.

We look forward to working with you and act together to make Paris count.

Thank you.