Thank you Mr. Chair

Since that this is the first time that the republic of Seychelles takes the floor, we would like to thank the Secretariat for the organization of INC2 and we extend our gratitude to the Government of France for hosting this event.

Mr. Chair, Seychelles being a small island States and in view of our strategic location as well as unique characteristics our environment continues to be impacted by plastic wastes, this is a major threat to us especially our outer islands which are most often difficult to access. Tons and tons of plastic wastes are washed up on our shores on a daily basis. For us, the Republic of Seychelles, the preservation of our Environment including the Marine Environment is one of our top priorities as we depend on it to sustain our economy through the fisheries and tourism industries.

Like many other countries we have already taken strategic actions nationally aimed at early achievement of global targets and protecting our environment especially from plastic pollution. Noticeable actions include the ban on single use plastic bags, cutleries and polystyrene take away boxes in 2017. Restriction on single use plastic straws in 2019. The ban on the importation, use, as well as commercial distribution of balloons in 2021. It is worth mentioning that as a Government, with the support of the different groups within the country we also promote the use and distribution of biodegradable alternatives.

Yet, we continue face also challenges notably in the identification and the composition of the biodegradable alternatives available on the international markets, plus their biodegradability in the environment are debatable whether or not those are creating more harm to the Environment. Therefore, we support the move towards the removal of unnecessary plastics. Mr. Chair, like many other island states, we do lack the capacity, resources and technology to ensure enforcement and monitoring.
Mr. Chair, Seychelles looks forward to the establishment of the Legally binding instrument as this will further help to produce well defined guidelines and criteria which can be adopted at the National Level whilst not forgetting the fact that sufficient time, and most importantly financial assistance and technology transfer will be required for societies especially those with economies in transition to adjust and meet these obligations, further to that Mr. President we do anticipate that the instrument will take into account the whole life cycle of plastics.

We look forward to engaging on the development of this global agreement to beat plastic pollution, whilst at the same time not forgetting the existing plastic pollution that needs to be managed.

Thank you Mr. Chair