STATEMENT BY SINGAPORE’S DEPUTY SECRETARY (RESILIENCE) MR ONG TZE CH’IN, MINISTRY OF SUSTAINABILITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE THIRD SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP AN INTERNATIONAL LEGALLY BINDING INSTRUMENT ON PLASTIC POLLUTION, INCLUDING IN THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT (INC-3)

• Chair, distinguished delegates and colleagues.

• Singapore would like to start by thanking the Government of Kenya for their kind hospitality. We would also like to thank the INC Secretariat for their extensive preparations for this meeting.

• INC-3 is a pivotal point in the negotiations. After INC-3, we will be left with a little over a year to conclude the instrument. We look forward to fruitful discussions over the course of the week on the substance of the instrument, which should be closely guided by the mandate of UNEA Resolution 5/14.

• To make full use of our limited time, the INC should focus on discussing the zero-draft and work towards narrowing down the options, proposing improvements, and addressing gaps in the text.

• UNEA Resolution 5/14 calls upon Member States to end plastic pollution. To this end, the instrument must place emphasis on actions that directly address plastic pollution, such as environmentally sound and comprehensive waste management and tackling the leakage of plastic pollution into the environment, particularly in the marine environment.

• We echo the Asia Pacific Group and other countries in calling for greater balance in the draft text. Like others, Singapore has concerns about the option that calls for limits on the production of primary polymers. These primary polymers may not be easily substitutable at this stage, as they go on to serve many different
products. Given how far upstream such limits are, they will have unintended and wide-ranging socioeconomic impacts.

- We recognize the need to address pollution across the full life cycle of plastics. In this regard, we call on the instrument to focus on sustainable production and consumption of plastics, through practical actions such as product design. We also welcome other measures to improve the circularity of plastics.

- We also support measures to phase down or phase out harmful chemicals, additives and polymers of concern. The instrument should also emphasise progressive demand-side measures such as introducing and promoting safe, sustainable, and economically viable plastic substitutes, and allow for adequate transitionary time for economies to adjust.

- Like many other countries, we believe that national action plans, comprising country-driven actions throughout the life cycle of plastics, should be the main avenue for implementation of the instrument.

- To ensure that the instrument delivers practical and positive impact, we need to build a treaty that is inclusive and implementable. We call for a pragmatic instrument that empowers countries to undertake science-based actions tailored to their local and national contexts to effectively tackle plastic pollution.

- Singapore is committed to work with all Member States as we progress our efforts in building an effective and actionable instrument. We also wish to express our alignment with the statements delivered by the Asia Pacific Group (APG), the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), and the Coordinating Body of the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA).

- Thank you.