Singapore’s National Statement for INC-2

- Chair, distinguished delegates and colleagues,

- First, Singapore would like to thank the Government of France for their kind hospitality and logistical arrangements in hosting this meeting. We would also like to thank the INC Secretariat for their hard work in preparing for this meeting.

- The INC Secretariat has done a commendable job of consolidating views from Member States and developing a comprehensive document on potential options for elements towards the international legally binding instrument.

- At INC-1 in Punta Del Este, the strong showing from Member States as well as industry players, NGOs and other stakeholders was testament to our global commitment to tackle the complex issue of plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. As we meet this week, it is important that we sustain this momentum and move into substantive negotiations at INC-2.

- Singapore wishes to emphasise the need to focus on the core issue of plastic pollution. The problem is not with plastic itself. As a material, plastic continues to serve useful purposes for our economies and our societies.

- Our view is that the eventual instrument needs to take a science-based approach to protecting human health and the environment from the impact of plastic pollution. The instrument needs to provide for diverse national circumstances and allow for pragmatic solutions and voluntary measures that are best suited to unique national contexts.

- To this end, Singapore encourages fellow Member States to focus on priority elements from the options paper that require urgent collective action, such as toxicity and the leakage of plastic into the environment, particularly the marine environment. Our view is that other elements are be better situated under National Action Plans that accord countries the
flexibility to pursue effective measures targeted to tackle plastic pollution in their respective national contexts.

- We recognize that the instrument also needs to address the accelerating growth in plastics production. We believe that this can only be realistically achieved through introducing and promoting safe, sustainable, and economically viable plastic substitutes. This will require us to put in the right incentives to activate the industry and the markets.

- As always, Singapore stands ready to participate actively in the discussions at INC and to work with all Member States towards a constructive outcome. We also wish to express our alignment with the statements delivered by the Asia Pacific Group (APG) and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), as well as the Coordinating Body of the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA).

- Thank you.