Closing statement by Solomon Islands to the Third Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-3)

19th November 2023

Thank you, Chair.
Solomon Islands aligns with statements made by Samoa on behalf of AOSIS and Palau on behalf of PSIDS. We thank you for your leadership over the first 3 INC and congratulate the new Chair on his election. We also want to register our appreciation to the co-facilitators for their guidance and leadership in the contact groups, and the dedication and commitment of the secretariat to the INC work. My delegation is committed to a constructive and fair dialogue in INC 4 and 5. However, we are mindful of the intent of UNEA 5/14 and its clear emphasis that plastic pollution must be addressed through the life cycle of plastic.

Chair,
In the Solomon Islands, plastic pollution is already having devastating impacts on the environment. Our rivers, streams, and coastal waters are choked up with plastics. In line with UNEA 5/14, we need to reconsider our habits, our mindsets and our behaviours towards plastics beginning from upstream in extraction and production to downstream in waste management including plastic pollution from fishing gear.

Mr Chair,
The implementation of this instrument will require robust support to SIDS. In this connection, the establishment of a dedicated financial mechanism for this instrument is a need that cannot be over-emphasized with multiple funding sources including contributions from major producers of plastics.

Chair,
My delegation cannot over-emphasise enough the importance of intersessional work on financing and means of implementation and on the upstream control measures on primary plastic polymers, chemicals, and polymers of concern, and on problematic, avoidable, and single-use plastic products. We are dismayed by the lack of decision on the way forward on this matter under Contact Group III.

Chair,
Whilst acknowledging that some pertinent matters remained unresolved in INC3, we are hopeful that the views, feedback, and proposals from members and observers shared over this week are sufficient to develop a revised zero-draft as basis for textual negotiation in the 4th Session of the INC.

I thank you chair.