Sri Lanka
Country Statement

Mr. Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues, Heads of Delegation, and Members,

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Republic of Kenya for their warm hospitality and the excellent facilities provided for hosting the INC3. Our gratitude also goes to the Chair and the Secretariat for their steadfast commitment, especially in crafting the zero draft, which serves as a consolidated document to initiate the negotiations.

Sri Lanka reaffirms its firm commitment to developing a strong International Legally Binding Instrument to address plastic pollution comprehensively, including in marine environments. The objective is to safeguard human health and the environment. Our proposed instrument must include obligations and control measures throughout the entire lifecycle of plastics, complemented by voluntary actions. This approach considers the unique circumstances and capabilities of developing countries, backed by strong means of implementation.

Sri Lanka support for an international instrument that fosters global action and cooperation on plastic pollution, endorsing practical, country-driven initiatives that accommodate diverse national contexts. It should encourage broad participation while allowing for context-specific measures and nationally determined approaches in each country.

In addition, the instrument should promote a circular economy approach and international cooperation, leading to sustainable production and consumption of plastics, research and innovation, education, and public awareness.

Sri Lanka firmly upholds those key principles of international environmental law, such as the Rio Principles outlined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, should guide the interpretation and implementation of the instrument provisions. Additionally, it should be guided by the principles of just transition, the promotion and protection of Human Rights, gender perspective, intergenerational equity, non-discrimination, transparency, accountability, coherence among existing conventions, and the use of the best available science, traditional knowledge, knowledge of Indigenous Peoples, and local knowledge systems.
Means of implementation are crucial aspects of our negotiation. Sri Lanka calls for a robust financial mechanism, which may include the creation of a new fund, synergies with existing MEAs, and the provision of technical assistance programs and schemes on technology transfer in mutually agreed terms.

This is essential to effectively support developing countries in implementing the future instrument. Moreover, a phased approach in the implementation by developing countries is imperative, recognizing diverse starting points within the international community.

Sri Lanka faced world largest plastic pellet ship accident in 2021 and still we are carrying out cleanup activities and facing huge impacts on livelihood and environment. Therefore, we proposed to have necessary mechanism to address accidental spills.

Furthermore, we align ourselves with the concerns articulated in the Asia Pacific regional statement presented by the collective efforts of the group of countries.

Thank you, Mr. Chair, for providing us with the platform to share our perspective on this critical matter.