Third session of the Inter-Governmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution (INC 3)

General Statement Plenary – Switzerland
Nairobi (Kenya) – 13th November 2023

Mr. Chair,

Let me first thank Kenya for hosting INC-3 and to express our appreciation to you Chair and your team for the excellent work in preparing the Zero Draft. You managed to compile a comprehensive document which encompasses the views expressed at INC-1 and INC-2 in a very limited time.

The text provides Members States with options on the full lifecycle as requested by the UNEA resolution 5/14, and includes relevant elements such as reporting and transparency. We support to work from the basis of the zero draft.

We also support the statement delivered by the High Ambitious Coalition on behalf of 63 countries and confirm our commitment to work towards a treaty text that enables us to end plastic pollution by 2040.

We all know that we have set ourselves an ambitious goal in finalizing a treaty text by the end of 2024. INC-3 marks the halfway point of the negotiations of the treaty – but there is still a long way to go.

To advance our work further after INC 3 and ahead of INC 4 and INC 5, we will need targeted intersessional work. This work will not to replace negotiations or pre-empt the outcomes of the negotiations. It is about technical work, that informs the INC and is to be considered by the upcoming INC’s.
In order to keep the timeline, we have to move at this meeting swiftly to substantive discussions. We support an approach with a first reading in the Contact groups that allows us to go through the text. A second step would be to open the text, to add new text elements and options that might be missing, eliminate options that receive no support and where possible to start working on text.

The two steps approach will allow us to gain first an overview and to understand the initial reactions from others while being able to introduce our text proposals and see them included in the textual outcome of INC 3.

Mr. Chair, this delegation is looking forward to work constructively under your guidance and to strive jointly with all colleagues to develop an instrument that allows us to end plastic pollution.