Mr. Chair,

I stand here on behalf of my country, and am also a member of the 39 countries of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) at the Second Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee. Timor-Leste is an archipelago country located in the Pacific region and Southeast Asia, our country is currently experiencing disastrous impacts to marine ecosystems, health related problems and destruction of biodiversity due to the alarming increase of land- and marine based plastic pollution.

Currently no national-level waste prevention or waste management legislation in place reduce plastics entering the country and polluting its ecosystems and contaminating its people. Crucial for the Government of Timor-Leste to actively engage in the current global treaty negotiations to support action oriented to their plastic pollution prevention and ‘Zero Plastic Timor-Leste’ ambitions. A legally binding international treaty that mandates a set of obligations and control measures for plastics along their full life cycle starting with extraction, petrochemical and polymer production, and plastic production design standards will help prevent plastic pollution in Timor-Leste.

Considering that TL is a small country with existing limitations, we have spent a lot of time preserving the marine environment from plastic pollution, at this time we need international support to stop the production plastics and to find alternatives to replace plastic in this second INC, country’s leaders’ strong commitment to an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment and ratify it in the near future.

Mr. Chair,

It is necessary to reconcile the economy with the environment and, therefore, move towards a circular economy, capable of valuing the various types of waste, so the initiated by the Government of Timor-Leste, and supported by the Mercy Corps agency and funded by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), United State Agency for International Development (USAID), European Union (EU) and leverage by private sector Heineken and Caltech. Circular Economy for Plastic program, the goal is to limit the generation of plastic, advance recycling technology and reduce improper plastic waste management through a support to civil society organization and recycling entrepreneur to promote circular economy for plastic in Timor-Leste, and also the program enhances the capacity of local civil society organizations and social business to participate in CC Mitigation initiatives through increased contribution to political, social and economic supporting the circular economic.

Mr. Chair,

The Timor-Leste Government through decree law 37/2020, has banned the import of plastic materials which are considered not environmentally friendly, through this decree also the government of Timor-Leste through the State Secretary for Environment has included taxes to the state treasury within 1 year of USD 122,272.68, and this is part of reducing the use of plastic and also giving responsibility to producers/ EPR. We don't sacrifice the comfort and welfare of future generations with plastic pollution, just because we don't take it seriously.

I thank you