Mr. Chair, Tuvalu extends its congratulations to you and your team for steering this significant meeting. We seize this moment to convey our heartfelt appreciation to the people and the Government of Kenya for their gracious hospitality, as well as to the INC Secretariat for coordinating this event.

Tuvalu aligns itself with the statement by Samoa on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States and the statement by Palau on behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States. We take this opportunity to provide additional comments emphasizing the critical importance of this global instrument in the context of our nation.

Mr Chair, we reiterate what others have said, that plastic pollution disproportionately impacts SIDS, like Tuvalu. Our land area of just 26km², presents unique challenges, compounded by loss of biodiversity, limited infrastructure, and heavy reliance on imported goods, adding pressure to our limited land area and constrained disposal sites. Tuvalu's limited landmass and fragile ecosystems are already under extreme pressure to provide needed services for our population. Tuvalu relies on this instrument to deliver meaningful results for SIDS such as Tuvalu, including adequate means of implementation that take into account our special circumstances as SIDS.

Mr Chair, we need to ensure that human rights, human health, and environmental impacts are considered at every stage of the plastic life cycle. An instrument that only addresses part of the plastic lifecycle without reference to reducing production and the adverse impacts of extraction and production would be considered a failure as it ignores the harm to people, the environment, and the climate system. We have shown our leadership to prevent environmental harm by pursuing innovative solutions to address harm to the land and marine environment, including through recent advisory proceedings at the International Tribunal on the Law Of the Sea. We feel this instrument is an essential tool in a comprehensive approach to generating effective change for present and future generations.

Tuvalu looks forward to actively participating in refining the zero draft, aiming to comprehensively address plastic pollution from its inception through its full life cycle, in accordance with the Principles outlined in the Rio Declaration. We steadfastly believe that the development of a strong...
instrument to combat plastic pollution will have far-reaching positive impacts ensuring the protection of both human health and the environment

Fakafetai lasi Mr Chair