Closing remarks of the Delegation of Ukraine during
INC-3
(19.11.2023, Nairobi)

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished colleagues,

First of all, let me express the gratitude of the Government of Ukraine to INC Plastic Secretariat, UNEP team and the Government of the Republic of Kenya for the brilliant organization of the third session of the International Negotiation Committee on plastic pollutions.

As we all know, the difficult and long-lasting negotiations, followed by a number of compromises were behind the successful adoption of the UNEA resolution 5/14. The same difficult negotiations happened during our previous meetings. We are sure that by the end of the day we will manage to achieve an important, globally beneficial result - an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution.

Despite the difficulties, caused by the invasion, the Government of Ukraine is keen of adoption international legally binding instrument on plastic pollutions and makes every possible step to eliminate the problem with plastics wastes in Ukraine.

Distinguished colleagues,

Science is strong that toxic chemicals associated with plastics are causing harm at all stages of the lifecycle. The presence of toxic chemicals in plastic toys, clothes, food packaging, and recycled plastics is well documented.

The future treaty should be focused on preventing harmfull effects from plastics throughout their life cycle by drastically phasing down the manufacturing and consumption of primary plastic polymers. False solutions, including recycling and incineration of plastics containing toxic chemicals, should not be considered as they lead to toxic chemical recirculation in materials and products made of recycled plastics.

However, the future plastic treaty has a unique opportunity to become the first multilateral agreement with legally binding and globally harmonized requirements for transparency of information on chemicals and polymers in plastic materials and products and traceability of this information in individual plastic materials and products across the entire lifecycle of plastics and for all stakeholders in the value chain. If this opportunity is realized, the treaty will not duplicate but complement existing agreements on chemicals and waste.

The interventions that we heard in the last days, clearly demonstrating good support and understanding of the importance of a globally harmonized approach to the transparency of chemicals of concern in plastic materials and products.

However, to make informed decisions for all life stages of plastics, disclosure of chemical identity in plastics should be with the traceability of this information in individual materials and products. Both are necessary preconditions to achieve a toxics-free circular plastics economy and resource efficiency.
To provide the efficient implementation the transparency and traceability of chemicals, it is essential to set up control measures and means of implementation, including a global database containing data about chemicals in individual materials and products to facilitate informed decision-making for all life stages of plastic and for all stakeholders in the value chain.

We also support countries declaring chemicals and polymers must be identified in an annex based on hazard-based criteria. Measures should also be included in national plans to facilitate transparency and accountability.

Excellencies,

Ukraine supports the actual Draft document and considers it is important to create a dedicated plastics multilateral funds using the new instrument. Sturdy financing will be required to cover the costs of necessary enabling activities and any additional costs arising from the obligations under the Treaty. The support activities will include institutional building, implementation, enforcement, awareness raising, capacity building, compliance, monitoring, reporting, and stakeholder participation.

Thank you.