I am delighted to be able to provide our statement at the second INC meeting on behalf of UN-Habitat.

First, we support the idea of eliminating unnecessary, problematic and unrecyclable plastics production under this treaty. Plastic recycling is a hard business to be economically viable. Rethinking the majority of our plastic consumption and product design is absolutely needed, according to the different capacity of plastic recycling capacity in different parts of the world.

Secondly, I’d like to highlight the urgent need for supporting finances in the waste management sector, especially for supporting the municipal budget for the operational cost of solid waste management. The world is generating more than 2 billion tonnes of municipal solid waste every year, of which 40% is mismanaged. We believe a mandatory Extended Producer Responsibility system should be established in parties to ensure a stable financial flow to support municipal solid waste management, including recycling.

Lastly, let us make just transition and mandatory inclusive EPR core obligation, to leave no one behind. We believe that similar provision to Minamata Convention Article 7 could be made the plastic treaty, in addition to ample financial support system to ensure decent job conditions to those people who are trapped in generational poverty in the bottom of the pyramid of plastic recovery chain.

UN-Habitat stands ready to support all the stakeholders in addressing plastic pollution through municipal solid waste management improvement in cities.