Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) also wishes to extend its gratitude to the Government of Kenya for its warm welcome and for hosting this meeting.

UNIDO welcomes the INC process and is already actively supporting its Member States’ goals in fighting plastic pollution through national, regional and international action plans and interventions, contributing to reducing plastic pollution.

UNIDO promotes circular economy practices along the plastic value chains to reduce the generation of plastic waste.

Circular economy for plastics requires an integrated and systematic approach where plastics are produced, used, and managed in a sustainable way throughout the value chain or their lifecycle.

Once produced sustainably, in order to gain maximum value, plastic products should be kept in use as long as possible.

Nevertheless, UNIDO would like to emphasize the critical importance to initiate the transformation to a circular economy at the very first step, the design stage, of the production life cycle of plastics. Designing products and processes for circularity helps eliminating hazardous substances and pollution, preserving value over time, and optimizing the use of resources. It is hence essential to prioritize the design stage to ensure that circularity is indeed embedded at every step of a plastic product lifecycle.

Firstly, with design for circularity at the core of its interventions, UNIDO is supporting Morocco, the Philippines, and South Africa within the Integrated Programme on circular solutions to plastic pollution funded by the Global Environment Facility. Similarly, and with funding from the Government of Japan, UNIDO is working with the Government of Egypt and Nigeria on preventing plastic pollution.
Secondly, UNIDO is also working on strengthening the national capacity on promotion of circular economy in Ghana with GEF funding and on establishing a Centre of Excellence for Circular Economy in the country thanks to funding from the Government of Canada. In parallel, UNIDO is implementing an integrated approach towards sustainable plastics use and (marine) litter prevention in Bangladesh with funding from the Government of Norway.

Furthermore, UNIDO takes this opportunity to invite Member States to join our common efforts to advocate for a global just circular economy transition through the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency.

UNIDO remains fully committed to supporting its Member States in transitioning towards a circular economy and eliminating plastic pollution by closely working with all relevant stakeholders and, hence, directly contributing to the objective of this INC process.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairperson.