U.S. intervention at INC-3
General views on document UNEP/PP/INC.3/4 on the zero-draft text of the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment

- We thank the Government of Kenya and UNEP for their hard work to support this INC session, and we thank the Chair for his continued leadership to move this process forward. We appreciate your efforts.

- The United States is pleased to be working with INC Members and observers towards an ambitious global instrument on plastic pollution that will bring all countries together to help solve this problem and further our efforts to protect human health and the environment.

- We have listened carefully to Members and observers at prior INCs and in other engagements; we have heard many constructive ideas and proposals on how to seek global change through this instrument.

- Of course, there is now also the Chair’s zero draft text, which provides specific text options for consideration.

- Having carefully considered these views and the zero-draft text, the United States is prepared to support meaningful and feasible universal obligations for Parties to address plastic pollution throughout the lifecycle of plastic.

- We have a number of ideas for such obligations that we intend to bring forward at INC-3, and we look forward to discussing them and hearing feedback.

- With that said, let me turn to the specifics and say that we appreciate the efforts of the Chair in developing the zero-draft
text. The INC’s request for a consolidated document was not an easy one to fulfill, and our Chair has delivered us what is needed to move the discussions forward.

- The start of text negotiations marks an important milestone because it shifts the INC’s focus from general concepts to specific provisions of a future instrument, important progress toward the collective goal of having a final text by the end of 2024.

- The United States supports using zero-draft text at INC-3 to progress our discussions, on the understanding that INC Members may wish to propose additions, deletions, and modifications that would be treated on an equal basis to the zero draft, and there should be no presumption in favor of using any particular wording from the zero-draft over alternative approaches proposed by INC Members, and this should be clear in the Contact Group mandate.

- Ideally, we expect that the INC-3 outcome will be a working draft text reflecting the negotiations this week, which INC-3 will decide to forward to INC-4 for consideration there.

- This working draft will also facilitate efforts of countries to prepare their position for INC-4 by providing substantial time to consider a draft text that fully and accurately reflects all Member views.

- The United States plans to share our specific proposals on the zero draft here in the contact groups that the Chair has proposed, and we look forward to hearing proposals and reactions from other INC Members.
- We would like to thank the Secretariat for putting together the synthesis report and thank colleagues for the constructive preparatory discussions on Saturday.

- Our goal would be to move forward to the extent possible to advance the issues in the synthesis report towards draft text that countries can begin to negotiate.

- We are open-minded on how best to do that and welcome a discussion in the contact group on how to progress our discussions constructively in this direction.