Country: Zambia
Agenda: Item 4

Mr. President, distinguished delegates, first and foremost, on behalf of the Zambian delegation, I would like to join the rest in expressing our appreciation to the French Government for excellent arrangements and hosting the second meetings for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC-2). Further thanks are extended to the INC secretariat for all their efforts in organising this meeting and UNESCO for hosting us here at this beautiful facility.

Zambia aligns itself with the statement made by Republic of Ghana on behalf of the African Group regarding the current discussion on the develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

Mr. President

Zambia as a developing country has been affected by plastic pollution and has impacted human and animal health and the environment. Our country is a net importer of plastic products and therefore has very little control on the polymers and other additives used in plastic production. This challenge coupled with inadequate capacity for management and monitoring plastic waste has exacerbated environmental degradation. This has also resulted in water and air pollution which has negatively impacted vulnerable populations and ecosystems. Zambia supports that the legally binding instrument being negotiated should include provisions to “promote sustainable production and consumption of plastics, including, among others, enhancing innovation for alternatives, improved product design, and environmentally sound waste management, all based on the principles and practices of Circularity.

It is our hope that the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment being negotiated will address the plastic pollution challenge in a comprehensive manner in order to safeguard the environment and the health of our ever-growing populations.
The Zambia remains available to engage constructively here at INC 2 with other parties and wishes to assure you of its support as steer this meeting to successful conclusion.

I thank you Mr. President