1. While AOSIS firmly believes that the INC process should remain fundamentally driven by its member States, we also recognize the extensive range of stakeholders involved. AOSIS is of the view that effective multi-stakeholder engagement must be maintained throughout the development of the ILBI, with opportunities to meaningfully contribute to the INC process on relevant matters based on their expertise, including the potential role(s) of stakeholders in the implementation of the ILBI. Opportunities and mechanisms for the incorporation of the vast knowledge and technical expertise amongst stakeholders, including the private and informal sectors, civil society, academia, local, sub-national and national governments, waste pickers, and Indigenous Peoples and local communities, are therefore considered critical to the instrument’s success. In that spirit, and as a general observation, stakeholders’ ultimate role must be geared toward the achievement of the objective(s) agreed by the Committee.

2. To this end, AOSIS envisions two roles for stakeholders: first, they need to have a meaningful role providing information that contributes to the INC process, which is not currently happening through the multistakeholder forum, and second, they have a critical role in implementing action to prevent, reduce and eliminate plastic pollution through the multistakeholder action agenda envisioned by the mandate resolution.

3. While AOSIS applauds the organization of the recently convened multistakeholder forum, we would advocate for this to be improved upon. AOSIS acknowledges the vast wealth of knowledge and expertise among the various stakeholders, and therefore advocates for more effective modalities to facilitate their contribution to the development of the instrument, particularly in providing expert input on complex scientific, social, economic, cultural and technical issues, the implications of potential measures, actions and obligations under the ILBI, and the challenges, opportunities and experiences with current governance frameworks on plastics.

4. The engagement of stakeholders should be complementary to the INC’s work programme and structured around the specific action areas or clusters of work required for the development of the instrument so as to ensure the most efficient use of resources, skills, expertise and time available. The stakeholders should therefore be invited by states to prepare and provide submissions, as appropriate, ahead of INC sessions in a timely, concise and strategic/focused manner, recognizing the significant value of their contributions to the process. These submissions, and any stakeholder forums, should be summarized in a document for the INC. In this regard, we note how this is facilitated under the biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction negotiations, as one example. However, the engagement of stakeholders should be enabled in a manner that does not jeopardize resources available for the participation of at least 2 representatives from each SIDS Member State, which is critical for our effective engagement.

5. AOSIS also takes this opportunity to call upon delegations to liaise and consult with the various stakeholders from their respective jurisdictions, in order to ensure that their national positions consider the experiences and knowledge of these various stakeholder groups.

6. Secondly, the multi-stakeholder action agenda envisioned by the mandate resolution is critical to encourage and accelerate voluntary actions by all stakeholders to address plastic pollution, foster partnerships, joint action and collaborations pursuant to the implementation of the instrument, mobilize innovative sources of finance and support, develop educational and awareness-raising programmes on the issue, capacity building
to enhance skills based on industry expertise, and promote research and development on science and technology related to plastics.

7. AOSIS submits that there are existing models of multi-stakeholder action agendas under existing agreements to learn from and build on, including the Marrakesh Partnership under the Paris Agreement, a robust and effective action agenda within the climate regime. However, at minimum, the multi-stakeholder action agenda under the ILBI on plastic pollution will require a clearly defined mandate and objective, an institutional framework for the exercise of its role and function(s), and platforms for engagements and the sharing of progress in implementing actions. AOSIS considers that this action agenda will need to be effectively facilitated by an appropriate mechanism.

8. AOSIS has consistently maintained that engagement of all relevant stakeholders is critical to confronting the plastic pollution crisis and we look forward to working with all of them in the furtherance of our agreed objectives.