

## Malawi Government

### Opening statement

Thank you Chair,

The Malawi delegation would like to join the other delegates in congratulating you on your election as Chairperson.

We wish to extend, our sincere thanks to the Government of Uruguay for your wonderful hospitality and offering to host this important meeting in Uruguay. We would also like to thank the UNEP secretariate for their tireless work in organizing this meeting and producing important working documents to support the INC1.

Malawi looks forward to actively engaging in this important global dialogue that aims at providing sustainable solutions to minimize harmful effects caused by plastics. As a country we fully concur with the aspirations expressed in African group statement and take cognizant of decisions made collectively by African governments in calling for a global instrument focusing on the most problematic, harmful and high-risk categories of plastics.

Despite facing unique challenges with the plastic pollution, Malawi remains committed to addressing issues relating to the full cycle of plastic of waste through various national interventions such as ban on single use plastics and promoting a circular economy.

Although we recognize the arduous task ahead of us on our journey to 2024, we urge the member states to reflect on the progress made since UNEA resolution 5/14 and to recall our mutual resolve to create an agreement that will address the harmful effects of plastics pollution and foster the creation of sustainable livelihoods and practices.

Therefore, as we forge towards developing a legally binding instrument, we support modalities that aim to first resolve issues that that can addressed easily in order create more time for matters that need to be visited more frequently in subsequent INCs.

In addition to the other important elements and principals that have already been mentioned we would like to highlight the significance of technology transfer as a critical means of implementation and support for strategic research that can assist developing countries in developing much needed baseline information on plastic waste and to spark innovation for solutions in plastics pollution. With that said, we conclude by reiterating the call for enhanced support for developing countries who often lack the resources to support an adequate delegation to participate effectively in the INC process.

We look forward to a constructive INC

Thank you Chair