Thank you, Mr Chair, for allowing Malaysia to take the floor.

Malaysia would like to align itself to the statement made by Jordan on behalf of Asia Pacific Group and begin by congratulating you Mr. Chair on your appointment, and to express our appreciation for the work and commitment by the Secretariat in organizing this meeting. To the government of Uruguay, we thank you for hosting the INC-1, and for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to us.

Your excellencies and distinguished delegates,

Today, the world is facing severe, transboundary plastic pollution, impacting human life and the environment alike. Without effective intervention, this severe impact will be inherited by generations to come.

All plastics are not the same, and therefore, should not be treated as so. Our mission here should focus on reducing unnecessary and problematic plastics and explore smart, safe and sustainable ways to use plastics, without hampering the economic benefits of plastics. Malaysia calls for the negotiations to include the elements of potential economic benefits in ending plastic pollution.

Developing an ambitious yet practical instrument calls for an honest, transparent, open and inclusive negotiation sessions so that no country is left behind. The success of establishing the draft zero legal text depends highly on the inclusiveness, and flexibility of the negotiations.

Your excellencies and distinguished delegates,

The instrument must consider truly comprehensive and viable solutions, with full life-cycle approach over the entire ecosystem of plastics, and across all sectors, both formal and informal. Solutions must be science-based to avoid non-viability and risking greenwashing.

Malaysia emphasizes the importance of adequate, coordinated, stable and predictable financing, for instance, through a dedicated multilateral funds, to be embedded into the structure of the instrument.

Innovation and technology transfer are key, especially in the area of waste management. However, they must be equally accessible and competitively priced for all countries. The progress of our effort must also be reflected through a robust, transparent and harmonized global reporting mechanism.
Although plastic pollution transcends beyond borders, the most effective work begins at home. Therefore, implementation measures should be country driven and considered in the local context taking into consideration national circumstances, country readiness and capabilities. The role of informal sector too, must be understood deeper in local context, to ensure the instrument’s ability to connect the dots and close the loop in transitioning towards effective circular economy.

The success of the instrument calls for a whole of nation approach, allowing for the voice of all stakeholders to be heard. Through this approach, stakeholders shall equally share the responsibility of ending plastic pollution within their dedicated capacity in this instrument.

Malaysia looks forward to a productive INC-1 and to developing an ambitious, practical, economically and environmentally sustainable, and ultimately socially inclusive and just instrument.

Allow me to end our statement by wishing the best of luck to our host country and those competing in the Qatar World Cup 2022. May the friendship and unity on the field extends here in the INC.

Thank you.