

National statement (Erlend D, Sverre)

Thank you Mr. Chair, it is my pleasure to provide some initial remarks on behalf of the Norwegian delegation.

We are grateful to Senegal for hosting us here in the city of Dakar. We recognize the country is in mourning due to the horrific hospital fire and we send our deepest condolences.

I would also thank the UNEP secretariat for organizing this meeting, and on short notice.

Distinguished delegates, over the next few days, we can lay the groundwork for a participatory, efficient and effective negotiating process to develop a legally binding instrument to meet the world's expectation of ending plastic pollution.

We look forward to seeing clear recommendations coming out of this meeting to guide this important process going forward.

Norway would like to highlight 4 points we consider key to success for this meeting.

1. First, we have a strict **timeline** for this process. In order to complete by the end of 2024, we need to plan for sufficient time to negotiate while also acknowledging delegations' need for time to prepare sufficiently. We are of the opinion that we need five INCs before the end of 2024 and we hope to see agreement on this during this meeting.
2. It is paramount that we start preparing immediately. We see great benefit in agreeing on an incoming **President** and **bureau** for the INC to allow for informal consultations and support to the secretariat in the months ahead. We would therefore welcome all regional groups to present their candidates here in Dakar.
3. Regarding the **organization of work**, Norway would like to start off the INC with an overarching discussion on the **objectives** and the **structure** of the instrument. This will provide direction for the process and be helpful to inform a thematic structuring of our subsequent deliberations and developing effective control measures.
4. Lastly, we expect this meeting to agree on the **Rules of Procedure** for the INC process and we think relying on precedence should guide our deliberations in this regard.

Thank you.