Chair,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States and I align my statement with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of AOSIS.

To be effective, the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution must provide a global ‘level playing field’ through legally binding core obligations, control measures and a standardized approach to verifying effective implementation of the instrument at the national level.

**In terms of core obligations**, the future instrument should, at a minimum:

1. Provide for the prevention, reduction and elimination of plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, and with consideration for the remediation of legacy plastic pollution. Provisions toward this end could include, for instance, a ban or bans on single use plastics (where practical), as well as bans on problematic or hazardous polymers and other constituent chemicals. They could also include the development of methods to collect and analyze the necessary data to improve our understanding of plastic material flows in our economies, and remove legacy plastics that wash on our shores and sometimes on our plates. They could include the development of regional and national strategy and action plans on plastic pollution;
2. Provide adequate, predictable, new, additional, and sustainable means of implementation, including capacity building, technology transfer and development, and financial support, in particular to SIDS in recognition of our special circumstances; and
3. Provide for cross-sectoral complementarity, cooperation, and coordination, in order to comprehensively address plastic pollution and leakages to the environment, including the marine environment.

**In terms of control measures**, the instrument must provide for the development of binding control measures that will, at a minimum:
1. develop mechanisms to control aggregate primary production of plastic (including establishing baselines, targets and reporting on production and consumption, similar to the Montreal Protocol);
2. eliminate the use of harmful chemicals in the production of plastic and ensure resource-efficient design and production of plastic;
3. establish harmonious design and labelling standards for plastic;
4. support and enable environmentally sound management of plastic chemicals and waste;
5. ensure global transparency of information on the presence and the identity of chemicals in plastic materials and products throughout their lifecycle; and
6. establish targets to reduce production of single-use plastics with associated monitoring to track and report on reduced production.

Intersessional work could be dedicated to elaborate on the types of control measures to include in the instrument.

As regards voluntary measures, we are of the view that the focus of our discussions should first and foremost be on mandatory provisions. That said, the instrument could enable the development of guidelines related to sustainable plastics production and consumption as well as environmentally sound management. Such guidelines could be developed by a scientific, technical, and economic body established under the future instrument.

In relation to National Action Plans (‘NAPs’), we support provisions in the instrument that require Parties to develop and implement these documents. Indeed, we view NAPs as being a core element of the instrument, through which Parties set out the specific policies and measures that they will take to prevent, reduce, and eliminate plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

Finally, and on a related note, given the likely technical, logistical, and financial challenges of developing and implementing NAPs, we envision the instrument mandating the provision of financial support and other means of implementation to developing countries, particularly SIDS, for the development and implementation of our NAPs, including support for Parties’ reporting on our efforts to implement those NAPs under transparency arrangements established by the instrument.

I thank you.