

Country Statement from the delegation of the Maldives for the Second Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

*Agenda item 4: Preparation of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.*

Thank you Chair,

We thank the Government of France for hosting this important meeting and congratulate the newly elected bureau members. We would like to express our appreciation to the INC Chair and the INC Secretariat for the work in preparing for the meeting, taking note of the potential options paper, that we hope to be starting point of our negotiations this meeting.

Our livelihoods, economy and very sustenance dependent on the environment. It is gravely concerning that our oceans are filling up with plastics and increasingly threatening marine life and ecosystems, even though our contribution to the global issue of plastic pollution is miniscule in comparison. The Maldives having made significant progress in phasing out Single Use Plastics, has also adopted a new legislation governing waste management, in addition to the Single Use Plastics phase out plan that has been in place prior to INC-1.

Mr. Chair,

Leading up to this meeting, Maldives in its capacity as one of the co-chairs of Group of Friends to Combat Marine Plastic Pollution has continued efforts on enhancing level of ambition and expectations from INC-2. Additionally, as one of the co-chairs of Commonwealth Clean Oceans Alliance and as a member of the High Ambition Coalition, Maldives has been striving for substantive progress on addressing the issue of marine plastic pollution on all fronts.

As such, Maldives continues its work on advocacy and engagement with partners in eliminating problematic and avoidable plastics. We understand that due to the global challenge of plastic pollution, there are varying views on the position paper among member states, however the Maldives strongly hopes that during the course of this meeting we will continue to engage in constructive dialogue for a positive outcome.

Supporting our national goals and efforts, the Maldivian delegation is here at this meeting with strong ambition, committed to solve, resolve, and move forward, with our focus on the substantive matters, with strong emphasis that this treaty does not duplicate already existing treaties and our negotiations be driven by implementing measures. We must take into account the need for adequate financial, technical and technological assistance and capacity building, especially for Small Island Developing States that have limited access to resources and capacity.

We are dedicated and look forward for productive discussions over the next days.

Thank you chair.