

INC-3 opening remarks – Amb. Meza-Cuadra, Chair of the INC

Your Excellency William Samoei Ruto, President and Commander-In-Chief of the Defence Forces of the Republic of Kenya,

Madam Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Madam Executive Secretary,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

It is my honor to declare open the third session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on plastic pollution. I would like to begin by thanking our host, the Government of Kenya, for the warm welcome here in Nairobi.

Let me also take this opportunity to thank the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, Ms. Inger Andersen, for making available these facilities for our session.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to our Executive Secretary and the Secretariat team for their tireless work to ensure the successful organization of this session, as well as their diligent efforts to prepare the necessary working documents for our meeting.

My thanks also go to, my dear friends, the Members of the Bureau of the Committee who have provided valuable advice from the regions over the intersessional period.

The urgency of addressing plastic pollution cannot be overstated. Plastic waste continues to inundate our oceans, harm wildlife, and infiltrate our ecosystems. It poses a direct threat to our environment, human health, and the delicate balance of our planet.

We are privileged, as we have been given the responsibility of addressing this crisis in an effective and comprehensive manner. We have the collective power to change this trajectory.

We have witnessed promising initiatives around the world that demonstrate change is possible, but to make a difference, at the scale required, we must work collectively. The transnational nature of plastic pollution demands international cooperation and a legally binding instrument to guide our efforts.

During our first and second sessions and through the many submissions received during the intersessional period, we have heard and captured a wealth of views presented by Members and observers.

We are eager and ready to hear more of your views during this session, knowing that only open a broad discussion can bring consensus. We are convinced that only through dialogue and consensus, we will advance our negotiations.

We held a successful preparatory meeting on Saturday during which delegates engaged in an open, constructive manner, ensuring that all views are heard. The meeting laid helpful groundwork for our session this week, and I want to commend the constructive spirit of all delegations.

I am confident that we can start our deliberations in the same spirit of cooperation and understanding. We now have had the opportunity to have the first round of discussion on all elements of the future instrument, albeit some in a less formal setting so far.

This week is the time for delegates to dig in and advance the text using the Zero Draft as a starting point. It is my hope that by the end of the session, the Committee will agree on a mandate for a revised draft and possible intersessional work to prepare for the fourth and fifth sessions.

I am confident that we can make substantive progress here at our third session and capitalize on the Nairobi spirit of consensus and ambition that brought us the mandate to negotiate this instrument.

I would like to reiterate my strong commitment to this process and to ensuring the success of our third session here in Nairobi.

Thank you and let us begin our work with determination and resolve.