Thank you Chair.

Seventeen years following the Dubai Declaration, toxic chemicals continue to be responsible for ongoing, massive human rights harms that negatively affect multiple aspects of human life and dignity.

We have run out of time for compromised solutions. Corporate greed and unprincipled chemical management are dragging us deeper and deeper into a crisis.

Profit and other vested interests should never come at the expense of human rights. We urgently need international chemical and waste management with more teeth. Are decision-makers ready to meet this challenge?

We have sufficient information to inform action, and we know that when there is will, multilateralism rooted in our common humanity can help us advance common objectives.

Human rights standards and obligations guarantee all people the rights to participation, access to information and access to justice in environmental matters.

And all States are bound to protect people from foreseeable and preventable human rights harms caused by environmental degradation.

Human rights also ensure the right of all people to enjoy the benefits of science, which requires safeguards to ensure science is independent, including through provisions on transparency and conflict of interest to ensure responsible corporate political engagement that respects human rights.

International cooperation – which includes resource mobilization and the equitable access to sustainable technologies – is enshrined in the UN Charter and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
That is to say that all States have obligations to respect, protect and fulfil human rights in the context of chemicals and waste of concern.

Negotiations need to focus on HOW to advance the realization of human rights, including the right to health and to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, for all people. Anything else is a distraction.

For instance, we need to ensure that human rights guardrails are integrated into policymaking, investment decisions and business models.

We need to achieve a just transition that protect the rights of workers and communities affected by the lifecycle of chemicals, through inclusive and participatory transition process.

And that States increase resources – in line with equity and their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and the duty to cooperate – in order to match the scale of the toxics crisis.

Finance informed by a human rights-based approach will benefit the countries and people most affected by environmental crises and avoid supporting projects that result in human rights abuses or violations and exacerbate social and economic inequalities. It also steers finance toward participatory and inclusive action that benefits people and the planet.

In conclusion, we must strive to address toxic chemicals as the human rights crisis it is.

OHCHR welcomes the much-needed establishment of the Global Alliance on HHPs and remains available to continue engaging with all stakeholders in the implementation of the new framework.

Thank you.