**Intervention at the fourth intergovernmental negotiating committee meeting (INC-4)**

**Inuit Circumpolar Council**

**Opening intervention**

Thank you. I am Lisa Koperqualuk, speaking on behalf of the Inuit Circumpolar Council and we represent Inuit living across the Arctic, from Greenland, Canada, Alaska, and Chukotka.

Inuit are already highly impacted from contaminants that enter the Arctic from all across the globe via long-range transport, including persistent organic pollutants, mercury, and now plastics. Inuit are experiencing compounding impacts from outside sources. The historic and ongoing impacts of colonialism, climate change, and an ever growing list of contaminants, including plastics.

Inuit are at the forefront of this, facing a warming climate more than four times faster than the rest of the planet. It has been recognized time and again that Indigenous Peoples and our Knowledge systems need to be part of solutions. The IPCC stated in its most recent report that “Meaningful participation and inclusive planning, informed by cultural values, Indigenous Knowledge… and scientific knowledge can help address adaptation gaps and avoid maladaptation (high confidence).” This rings true for combatting plastic pollution as well.

Given the comprehensive impact of plastics on human rights and the rights of Indigenous Peoples, there must be a rights focus, including the recognition and implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) throughout and our right to free, prior, and informed consent, throughout the treaty.

Core obligations must address the full life cycle of plastics and focus on the elimination of plastics and the switch to non-plastic alternatives. Toxic additives must be eliminated, and control measures also must address nano- and microplastics.

The monitoring of plastics in the environment must also be included, and should be based on the best available knowledge, that includes science and Indigenous Knowledge equitably.

For the implementation of the treaty, extended producer responsibility should be used to implement the polluter-pays principle as part of mandatory requirements.

Meaningful and effective participation of observers, in particular rights holders such as Indigenous Peoples, must be ensured in all aspects of the treaty, including equitable transition.

ICC has many examples of this and we are ready to work on this together. Thank you and we look forward to providing further input as the negotiations unfold.