Thank you Mr. Ambassador for the opportunity to express our views. I am Tadesse Amera, Executive Director of PAN Ethiopia and Co-chair of IPEN, International Pollutants Elimination Network, a global network of more than 600 civil society organizations working in over 120 countries.

We share with you a sense of urgency to complete a strong treaty that protects the health and human rights of those most vulnerable to the harms associated with the toxic cycle of plastics – Indigenous Peoples, including Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic, workers, fenceline communities, women, and our children. Indeed, the treaty must protect all life on this fragile planet because we are not separate.

We appreciate your work and the work of the co-chairs and co-facilitators, and we welcome finally beginning text negotiations.

However, we need to recognize that the pace and ambition of the work needs to dramatically increase. We urge each and every country to make all necessary efforts to establish a treaty that will substantially reduce the amount of plastic produced, prevent exposures to toxic chemicals, and ensure a just transition. We highlight the need for meaningful, open and transparent technical work that is based on independent science free from conflicts of interest. We urge formal intersessional work on production limits, criteria for listing chemicals of concern, primary plastic polymers, and financing.

The time for action is now. We owe it to our children and future generations

Thank you for your consideration and care.