Thank you, Mr. Chair. I speak on behalf of the members of Stop Tobacco Pollution Alliance, CIEL, and IPEN.

The inclusion of references to human rights in the draft text does not impose new or additional national obligations, but instead acknowledges existing human rights duties that already apply to every participating Party, through both specific human rights accords and customary international law. Choosing among the environment, health and human rights as the basis for addressing the plastic epidemic is a false choice. Human rights apply to all people at all times and are not severable, including indigenous rights under the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. A healthy environment is intrinsically linked to health and other human rights. We urge delegations to acknowledge this interconnectivity and reject efforts to hold up negotiations by claiming that health and human rights are outside the mandate of the INC. The INC offers an extraordinary opportunity to integrate these universal principles into the functional text of the agreement.