Thank you, Chair.

I am speaking on behalf of Nexus3 Foundation, a participating organization of IPEN.

This week we heard many delegates addressing the toxic chemicals in plastics and their health impacts on humans—furthermore, scientists reminded us about the extended implications of plastic pollution on biodiversity and our future.

Studies show that terrestrial plastic pollution is taking longer to degrade compared to the pollution in the ocean. Plastic’s slow degradation is a long-term humanity problem.

We believe that protecting human health should be considered a cross-cutting issue to be addressed in the Treaty throughout its control measures. Experience under Article 16 of the Minamata Convention has shown that a dedicated article on “health aspects” is ineffective without consideration across the control measures.

We also believe that to protect human health from the adverse effects of plastic pollution, including microplastics, nanoplastics and toxic chemicals, it is vital to follow the example of the Stockholm Convention and incorporate the precautionary principle in the treaty.

Some countries and the plastic industry emphasise the need to increase plastic circularity and recycled content without acknowledging the toxic chemicals in plastics. As a result, plastic credits finance has been promoted as incentives for plastic waste collection, recycling, and waste to energy. We want to emphasize that burning plastics in the form of RDF for fuels should not be and cannot be claimed for credit due to toxic emissions and releases. We therefore hope that these destructive practices will be prohibited by the Treaty.

We look forward to continued work at INC3.

Thank you.