Opening statement—Pre-INC3 - Delivered by Pamela Miller, IPEN co-chair

Thank you Madame/Mr Co-Facilitators. I am speaking as Co-Chair on behalf of IPEN, a network of more than 600 civil society organisations from more than 120 countries.

IPEN believes the Plastics Treaty is a vital step to make significant progress on the protection of human health, the health of other living beings, and the environment from the toxic impacts of plastics throughout their full lifecycle.

We believe the preamble of the Treaty should recognize the harm from plastic pollution and that the science is clear about the fact that plastics and associated chemicals are a global concern.

As for the scope, we believe as has been stated by many States that it is already clearly defined in UNEA resolution 5/14 and it should cover the full lifecycle. Science shows that toxic chemicals associated with plastics are causing harm at all stages. IPEN has documented the presence of toxic chemicals in plastic pellets, in consumers’ products and in recycled plastics. We have found toxic chemicals in toys, in clothes and in food packaging. These chemicals are of global concern as they are transported into remote regions, including the Arctic where I live and conduct research, affecting biodiversity as well as the health and safety of traditional foods that are essential for the health and well-being of the Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic.

The plastics treaty is a global health treaty and the guiding principles should be informed by those of other MEAs including the precautionary principle, as well as the principles of human rights and transparency.

To protect workers, the planet, and our future, we need global controls and transparency on hazardous chemicals.

Thank you for your consideration.