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

Thank you Madame/Mr Co-Facilitators. And good afternoon to all. I am speaking as Co-Chair on behalf of IPEN, a network of more than 600 civil society organisations from more than 120 countries, as well as Alaska Community Action on Toxics, a participating organization.

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.

The plastics treaty is a global health treaty, and we believe that intersessional work on criteria of chemicals and an initial list of chemicals would help move the negotiations forward in a constructive manner. Intersessional work should be carried out openly, transparently and with the contributions of independent scientists and civil society and free of conflicts of interest.

Science shows that toxic chemicals associated with plastics are causing harm at all stages of the lifecycle. IPEN has documented the presence of toxic chemicals in plastic pellets, in consumers’ products and in recycled plastics.

We have found toxic chemicals in plastic 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.

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

Thank you for your consideration.