Monday 13 November Plenary statement on Agenda Item 4 —INC3 - Delivered by Pamela Miller, IPEN co-chair

Thank you, Mr. Chair 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 120 countries. Our members from around the world are directly harmed throughout the entire life cycle of plastics from the extraction of fossil fuels, plastics and chemicals manufacturing, use and disposal. We uphold and support a human rights-based approach in the development of the new treaty.

Science is definitive 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.

The future treaty should be centered on prevention of harm from plastics throughout the life cycle by drastically phasing down production and consumption of plastics and reject false solutions included in the zero draft such as recycling and chemicals recycling that have failed to work for decades. We urge that the committee advance a first draft for INC-4 based on elements of the zero draft and discussions here so that real progress can be made on the substance of the treaty. We believe that intersessional work on criteria of chemicals, including polymers and monomers, and an initial list of chemicals would help move the negotiations forward in a constructive manner.

IPEN believes a strong Plastics Treaty is vital toward protection of human health and the health of all living beings from the toxic effects of plastics. To protect workers, the planet, and our future, we therefore need a true just transition, global controls and transparency on hazardous chemicals in plastics.

Thank you for your consideration.