Intervention, November 13th, 2023 on behalf of the Scientists’ Coalition for an Effective Plastics Treaty

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me to take the floor. I am Professor Trisia Farrelly speaking on behalf of the Scientists Coalition - a body of 300 independent scientists from over 50 countries.

Distinguished delegates, observers, and stakeholders,

Given the scientific consensus on the planetary threats related to plastic pollution, we support a time bound global polymer production reduction target with globally agreed national targets.

We endorse broad adoption of the concept ‘essential use’ defined as “necessary for health, safety or critical for the functioning of society” and that “there are no available technically and economically feasible alternatives.”

We support as a priority the development of a range of assessment criteria for safety, sustainability, essentiality, and transparency to assess groupings of bio- and fossil-based feedstocks, chemicals, polymers, alternatives, substitutes, products, technologies, production processes, systems, and services. We also support the development of adaptable regulatory lists of these groupings in the annexes.

We strongly emphasize that criteria and lists be developed by bodies of independent experts, including Indigenous scientists and local experts, and governed by a robust conflict of interest policy. We also support the development of adaptable regulatory lists of groupings in the annexes.

Critically, we do not support separate workstreams dedicated to definitions in the intersessional period; rather we recommend that workstreams consider the strengths and weaknesses of UNEP definitions and those in other MEAs alongside the latest scientific consensus in their deliberations.

As scientists, with many decades of research on plastic pollution and plastic chemicals, we stand ready to provide expertise on these details to the INC. Thank you.