Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me the floor.

Good afternoon everyone.

I am Priti Banthia Mahesh and I speak on behalf of Toxics Link, an environmental group from India working on the issue of Waste and Chemicals for around 3 decades and a participating organisation of IPEN.

Plastic pollution is a very critical issue and the challenges are very critical especially in developing countries like India, where the production and consumption of plastic and plastic products is huge and there are limited frameworks to address the entire lifecycle of plastic. The limited focus on chemicals in plastic and micro and nano plastic pollution and its impact on the health of all living beings and overall, the planet, is worrying and makes it very important that the Global Plastic Treaty is put in place at the earliest, with strong and clear measures, not just on waste management but on the entire life cycle of plastic.

Toxics Link, therefore, would like to thank the Secretariat for this initiative and strongly supports a Treaty which focuses on eliminating unnecessary plastics and toxic chemicals in it and mandates a harmonized effort and system to ensure Just Transition.

Thank you once again Mr Chairman.