

Dear Mr chair,

Dear Excellencies, and all protocols observed

My name is Tadesse Amera, co-chair of the International Pollutants Elimination Network, IPEN

We are a global network of over 600 civil society groups in 127 countries.

This is the beginning of a historic process to address the negative impacts of plastic pollution. We see this treaty as a Global Health treaty due to the negative impacts on health that plastics have, due to the extensive exposure to hazardous chemicals throughout the lifecycle of plastics

As an outcome of this meeting, we urge governments to reaffirm the importance of an inclusive, open, transparent and equitable process in which non-governmental organizations will contribute to the process. Therefore, we urge members not to diverge from the rules for participation for NGO observers under the Minamata convention. Any diversion from those rules should ensure the active participation of all relevant stakeholders and promote transparency and the effective engagement of civil society

Thank you, Mr. Chair!!