Good evening Mr. Chair and Distinguished Delegates. We would like to offer some reflections on the first session of the INC.

Tomorrow, we will return to the communities in which we live and work and where children, our families, workers, and communities are exposed to dangerous chemicals in their everyday lives from plastics. This is not an abstract issue. We continue to see people suffering from the effects of plastic pollution. As we come to a close, we would like to reflect on our collective moral responsibility. It is our ultimate responsibility to protect the health of the most vulnerable among us through the negotiation of a strong treaty on plastics that drastically reduces the plastics produced.

We heard many delegates express the need for addressing both the environmental and health impacts of plastics, by addressing harmful polymers and chemicals and calling for transparency of chemical ingredients. Toxic chemicals are incompatible with a circular economy.

We look forward to having the opportunity to continue to work with you in the same constructive and collaborative manner through the upcoming negotiating sessions.

Thank you, Chair, delegates and colleagues; we thank the hospitality of the Republic of Uruguay and we wish for a safe journey home to all.

THANK YOU!!