



IPEN's Opening Statement at INC-1

Dr. Tadesse Amera, IPEN Co-Chair

Thank you, Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates,

I am speaking on behalf of IPEN, the International Pollutants Elimination Network, a network of 600 Health & Environmental Organisations in 126 countries largely based in the Global South. Our goal and mission is a toxics-free future for all and plastics threaten our health.

The INC process should guarantee the broadest possible participation of all involved stakeholders, as stipulated in Resolution 5/14 and in line with the practice from the Minamata Convention INC. As observers, we would like to highlight that references to the UNEP UNEA Major Groups structures should be deleted going forward as the INC is a country led process and not a subsidiary body of UNEA.

IPEN believes the Plastics Treaty is a vital step to make significant progress on the protection of human health, the health of other living beings, and the environment from the toxic impacts of plastics throughout their full lifecycle.

The Treaty should focus on plastic pollution throughout the full lifecycle of plastics and address both the visible and the invisible impacts of plastic materials

In order to do so, the delegates should consider building the Treaty on three basic principles:

- First: To best understand what plastics pollution is, one must understand what plastic is: a material made from carbon (mainly fossil fuels) and chemicals. a complex group of mixtures of tens of thousands of chemicals, many of which are toxic.
- Second: The treaty should address the harmful health effects from plastics throughout their lifecycle, including improving the transparency on their composition
- Third: Plastics contain toxic chemicals, we must recognize that toxic chemicals make plastics incompatible with a circular economy.

We look forward to an ambitious and protective Treaty

Our future is in your hands.

Thank you!!