Intervention for Health Care Without Harm during the Plenary (formal) / Closing Statement of the Open-Ended Working Group of the Global Framework on Chemicals for a planet free of harm from chemicals and waste.

Thank you, Co-Chair. Good afternoon.

On behalf of Health Care Without Harm, and its network of Global Green and Healthy Hospitals with more than 2.000 members representing over 70,000 hospitals and health centers in 87 countries worldwide, and on behalf of the Healthy Hospitals Project, HCWH's strategic partner in Brazil, representing more than 350 health organizations and 23 health systems in this country, we thank and congratulate the Secretariat, IOMC, delegates and stakeholders for the progress made during the OEWG.

We would like to share about the key messages and takeaways of the work on Health during the 1st OEWG for GFC, specially on the Multi Stakeholders Day sessions:

1. The health sector is a critical sector because it protects health, it represents around 10% of the global economy, so the health sector can lead by example through our mandate to "First Do No Harm".
2. The Health sector has momentum as evidenced by all the case studies shared in the Health IP Session yesterday during the multisectoral and multistakeholder day that should be capitalized and built on, in order to identify pilots for scaling.
3. When the protection of health is at the center of chemicals and waste management efforts, the health sector can synergize with other sectors for greater impact.

As previously indicated, we are convinced that a healthcare sector implementation program for the health sector established under the GFC/IP2 could support this goal and would complement the achievement of a strong Global Plastics Treaty. We hope that such a program will help to create alignment around goals, standards and regulations internationally, as well as improve transparency across the plastics and chemicals value chain. Given its importance in terms of generating impact, we expect that projects by/for the health sector and by health ministers will be encouraged and considered, as well as specific and proper funding to support it.

As a sector that is predominantly female in most countries and suffers disproportionately from chemical exposures including in the health workplace including pesticides, we appreciate the progress made on the Gender Action Plan

and applaud the establishment of the Global Alliance on Highly Hazardous Pesticides.

In regards to the GFC Fund, we believe that greater access to decision-making on the Executive Board and for projects involving the health sector and civil society will provide effective results and demonstrate the unique advantages of the Global Framework on Chemicals for a planet free of harm from chemicals and waste.

HCWH has a long and successful history, with over 25 years of experience and advocacy in the management of chemicals and waste, among other issues relevant to the health sector. Throughout this period, HCWH and its partners have effectively contributed to a more sustainable global health sector, which minimizes impacts on the environment and human health. We reaffirm our support for the ambition of creating this program for the health sector and our commitment to working together with the labour, environment and agriculture sectors in support of its implementation.