



Environment and Social Development Organization

November 28, 2022

ESDO Statement to Global Plastic Treaty INC 1

Thank you, Chair,

On behalf of the Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO a participating organization of IPEN, I am submitting this statement to the Global Plastic Treaty INC 1 to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

Honorable Chair, as we know, the top challenge is stopping or minimizing land-based and marine plastic pollution, which needs comprehensive and collative initiatives. To beat plastic pollution, it's an underline need to have a legally binding instrument. And for the processes we for an inclusive treaty negotiating process.

A guideline on proper management way of plastic waste also needs to be established to secure our oceans. Due to improper management and lack of reasonable consideration of people, plastics go down the drain, and eventually, it goes into our oceans which is the reason for the transboundary movement of plastic wastes via waterways. Plastics from things like wet wipes, microbeads in cosmetic products and all manner of tiny plastic fragments escape to the ocean this way. This can impose a serious threat to our ocean resources.

According to the estimation from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, more than two-thirds of the animal protein that will be needed to feed the future global population can come from the ocean if it is managed sustainably. So, this is really high time we need to take all the necessary steps to secure our ocean resources, particularly from the pollutants like microplastic.

The management of current stockpiles of plastics must not release toxic chemicals, or plastic litter, or contribute to climate change. Non-circular plastics (those containing toxic additives) should be identified, segregated, and safely disposed of. The export of plastic waste for disposal purposes should be prohibited and effective national collection and recycling systems should be funded. Burning plastic waste or associated derived fuels for energy in cement kilns, incinerators, or other combustion technologies is not circular, renewable, or sustainable and should be prohibited.

The UNEA resolution recognizes that plastic pollution needs to be tackled through a full lifecycle approach and the operative part of the resolution specifically requires that the legally binding instrument to be developed should have a comprehensive approach that addresses the full lifecycle of plastics. This means that the use and release of harmful substances will be addressed at all phases of the lifecycle of plastics. As a minimum, the toxic impacts of plastics during production, design, consumption, and waste management will be addressed in the treaty negotiations.

Honorable Chair, plastics and their toxic additives have toxic impacts on human rights throughout their life cycle, particularly in communities that are least responsible for producing them. The new legally binding global treaty must hold polluters legally and financially accountable, provide remedies to affected communities, and mitigate these impacts. We believe the member's state should consider that the request to the secretariat on the draft elements and structure of the treaty includes considerations of the human health impacts of plastics and on chemical ingredients of plastics.

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So, we urge this meeting to establish a transparent and inclusive INC-1 and forthcoming INCs, that led to this global challenge inclusively and collectively. We appeal for the country's support in this process. This includes the importance of the participation of all stakeholders including CSOs/NGOs/Academica in in-person and ensuring financial support to delegates and observers from low-and middle-income countries in the INC process.

Honorable Chair, we strongly believe the together of our effort will lead the INC process to have a legally binding treaty in a timely manner.

I thank you.

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