



# Environment and Social Development Organization

## ESDO's Intervention on Agenda Item 4

Thank You Mr. Chair for giving me the floor. I am speaking on behalf of ESDO.

"Zero draft" can be described as a balanced starting point for negotiations at INC-3, reflecting diverse viewpoints expressed during INC-2. It has acknowledged both the positive and negative aspects of the draft, emphasizing the need for discussion and refinement. The text has highlighted the connection between plastics and chemicals, with concerns about certain chemicals used in plastic production. Above all, there are some points to be discussed more elaborately.

Firstly, plastic recycling is a false solution to beat plastic pollution. Since plastic products contain chemicals, recycling plastics means recycling these chemicals. The process demands substantial amounts of energy. Downcycling, where the quality of recycled material diminishes over successive cycles, is another concern. Plastic recycling process discharges microplastics in the environment as well as releases greenhouse gases which lead to global warming. Additionally, the persistence of toxic chemicals as additives and the presence of residual contaminants in recycled plastics can pose risks to both human health and the environment.

Another false solution is "bioplastics". Bioplastics are not inherently biodegradable. These plastics can persist in the environment for a long time, similar to traditional plastics. The production of bioplastics involves the use of chemicals and fertilizers during the cultivation of feedstock crops which could lead to environmental pollution and have negative impacts on ecosystems.

I thank you Mr. Chair.

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Member of .....

