



Environment and Social Development Organization

ESDO's Opening Statement for INC -4

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

In constructing the future treaty, the principal focus should be on mitigating plastic pollution across its entire life cycle. This involves a phased reduction in both plastic production and consumption and refraining from reliance on recycling as a solution. Member States should use the revised Zero draft as a foundation for negotiations, concentrating on clarifying obligations and refining the text rather than repeating discussions on the treaty's scope. The existing scope outlined in UNEA Resolution 4/15, covering the full life cycle, should remain intact.

Additionally, the treaty should encompass provisions addressing chemicals, emissions, trade, and transparency. The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee ought to engage in intersessional work to compile a list of concerning chemicals, including monomers and polymers, for inclusion in the treaty's Annexes, accompanied by well-defined criteria for their selection. Retaining and further developing the treaty's Annexes is crucial to ensure adaptability to evolving knowledge, innovation, and challenges.

There is no way to overcome the plastic pollution crisis through waste-management alone, controls on the quantity of plastic production are the key to unlocking the potential benefits of reuse and recycling. Supply-side controls will also reduce the cost of future remediation and clean up.

Moreover, control measures should prioritize minimizing plastic production and endorsing the development of plastic-free products, routing for banning recycling, as it poses risks such as worker exposure to toxic chemicals, the release of microplastics, and the dissemination of toxic substances through products made from recycled plastics.

I thank you.

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