

## Women's Major Group key points for INC5

- Plastics have become pervasive in our environment, posing alarming health risks that demand immediate attention. As the Women's Major Group, representing diverse communities globally, **we stress the imperative to confront these health impacts directly within the framework of the upcoming plastics treaty.**
- First, we want to highlight that women and girls are disproportionately **affected by plastics pollution**, therefore we want to express our concerns about **the lack of mention of the gender-equality and women's rights in general in the non- paper.**
- Secondly, the presence of plastics and the toxic chemicals added to plastics, in particular Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (**that disrupt the human hormone system**) are a profound health risk. The health risk from plastics disproportionately affecting women's reproductive health, as well as their children's health, and affecting future generations. Hormone disruption causes reproductive health damage, leading to the increased number of families that are no longer able to have children, or children that are born with disabilities.
- Recent scientific studies have found nano- and microplastics in the placenta (Garcia et al. 2024 REF) and newborns' first vomit (ref Liu et al. 2023), highlighting that human exposure begins before birth
- This is why the Women's Major Group advocates for explicit measures within the treaty text to limit plastic production, ban chemicals and polymers of concern, restrict or ban intentionally added microbeads and microplastics (e.g. in cosmetics), establish a globally harmonized system for transparency and traceability of chemicals in plastic products and materials throughout their entire lifecycle, and require design criteria to ensure **that plastics are free from harmful chemicals**, and increase longevity and repairability, as well as reuse, reduce, and refill. This action is essential to safeguard human health and future generations from these insidious pollutants.
- Measures should be global and legally binding. The **participation of rights holders** (including women, youth and Indigenous Peoples) in the development, implementation, review, and update of the National Plans must be made mandatory. The establishment of a dedicated financial mechanism is needed, particularly for Global South countries, to support implementation, capacity building, and a just transition to safe and, green non-toxic jobs.
- The Women's Major Group urges delegates to prioritize health and transparency in developing a robust plastics treaty.

The WMG to UNEP has following language proposal (**in red**) to the Chair non-paper

## PREAMBLE

### NON-PAPER 3 OF THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE

#### 1 PREAMBLE

[“The Parties to this Convention,

- Noting with concern that the high and rapidly increasing levels of plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, represent a serious environmental and human health problem at a global scale, negatively impacting the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development,
- Recognizing the special circumstances and needs of developing countries, and the disproportionate impact of such plastic pollution on small island developing States,
- Recognizing also the important role played by plastic in human society,
- Underlining the importance of managing the production and consumption of plastics at sustainable levels, including by promoting resource-efficient design of plastic products and materials so that they can be repaired, reused, remanufactured or recycled and therefore retained, along with the resources they are made of, in the economy for as long as possible, thus minimizing the generation of waste,
- Reaffirming the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, adopted in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992,
- Based on the principles of the Paris Agreement<sup>1</sup> reaffirm to ensure that all actions related to the treaty are to respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health and to a healthy environment, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity... etc.

## ARTICLE 6 SUPPLY

- Acknowledge the need to manage the supply of primary polymers to achieve sustainable levels of production and consumption of plastics through their life cycle.
- Encourage Parties to take measures to promote sustainable production and consumption of plastics throughout their life cycle.

This article could require:

- Parties to cooperate to achieve a global objective of sustainable levels of production.
- Reporting on production of primary and secondary plastic polymers.
- Registration, transparency and traceability of monomers, polymers and additives in plastics
- Transparency and elimination of plastic-supply-related health impacts, in particular on workers and local communities
- Decision on the need for further action at a later meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- Keeping under review the measures and objectives set out in this article.

---

<sup>1</sup> Paris Agreement Preamble para 11 (2015)