

Shortened form of WHO statement – 285 words

**Statement on behalf of WHO, including the Secretariat of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC), an entity hosted by WHO
Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC4)**

Ottawa, Canada 23 – 29 April 2024

WHO and the Secretariat of the WHO Framework Convention Tobacco Control (FCTC) welcome the revised draft text of the legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

We would like to convey the concerns of Member States of WHO expressed through its Resolution 76.17 (2023) that the production, consumption and disposal of plastic products, including microplastics and related chemicals, have the potential to impact human health both directly and indirectly.

WHO calls therefore for a strong treaty text that consistently and in all relevant provisions recognizes potential risks to human health from plastic. Additionally, recognizing the disproportionate burden on indigenous communities and other vulnerable populations, WHO emphasizes the importance of incorporating-rights-based approach, cross-sectoral collaboration and health equity throughout.

WHO does not support a blanket exemption from treaty obligations for medical and health uses. Instead we propose including healthcare as one of the “dedicated programmes of work” and/or in sector specific approaches to product design and innovation to leverage existing healthcare expertise in sustainable supply.

WHO has many resources that can be used to assist treaty implementation, including guidance for medical products registration, risk assessment expertise for chemicals of concern, waste management both in the health sector and beyond and a number of

sustainability initiatives in the healthcare supply chain (such as – the Alliance for action on climate change and health (ATACH)).

WHO seeks that the treaty fully acknowledges this work as well as relevant WHO resolutions including Resolution WHA76.17. The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control's recent decision to address plastic waste from tobacco products and electronic devices and including a potential ban on plastic cigarette filters, is complementary to the proposed treaty' and further discussion with the WHO FCTC warranted.

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