



Stop Tobacco Pollution Alliance (STPA)  
*Media Brief for UN Plastic Pollution Treaty: INC-5*

<http://ash.org/plastic-pollution>

### Priority Messages

- Cigarette filters are single-use plastics.
- Cigarette filters are not biodegradable.
- Cigarette butts are the most-littered item in the world.
- Cigarette butts contain toxic chemicals that leach into the ground and water.
- Cigarette filters are a deceptive design feature that give people who smoke the false impression of safety when in fact plastic fibers fall out during the act of smoking and are linked to a more aggressive form of lung cancer.

### Priority Positions

- Cigarette filters should be banned to protect our environment and global health.
- The tobacco industry should be excluded from the UN Plastic Pollution Treaty negotiations, in line with the existing global tobacco treaty obligations (Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC) and United Nations principles and policies (HLM NCDs, UN Global Compact, WHO FENSA).

### More Resources from STPA

- [Extended Key Messages](#)
- [Plastics Treaty Process and National Policies: A Backgrounder](#)
- [Tobacco in Plastics Policies](#)
- Journal Article: [The 'filter fraud' persists: the tobacco industry is still using filters to suggest lower health risks while destroying the environment](#)
- Journal Article: [Cellulose acetate cigarette filter is hazardous to human health](#)
- Blog: [Global Plastics Treaty must align with Global Tobacco Control Treaty](#)
- [Daily Blog from ASH at INC-4 will be here](#)

### About the Stop Tobacco Pollution Alliance (STPA)

The Stop Tobacco Pollution Alliance (STPA) is a global coalition of public health organizations who recognize the crucial intersection of tobacco control and environmental health. Convened by Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) and the Global Center for Good Governance in Tobacco Control (GGTC), STPA is composed of organizations with decades of experience working on the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) from its inception through its implementation today and beyond.

STPA members will actively participate in the UN plastic pollution treaty negotiations and remain active to ensure strong implementation of treaty measures that serve to reduce the tobacco epidemic and its toll on the environment.

### Media Contact

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*Experts available in English, Spanish, French*

STPA is convened by:



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