



INC 5 – 25 November 2024

Opening Plenary Statement Action on Smoking and Health

Dear Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates and Observers:

Thank you for the opportunity to make a comment on behalf of Action on Smoking and Health (ASH), Comité National Contre le Tabagisme (CNCT) and Smokefree Partnership, each members of the Stop Tobacco Pollution Alliance.

We urge the INC to act decisively to end plastic pollution, starting with banning useless, ubiquitous and toxic plastics and plastic products. Perhaps the lowest hanging fruit in this category is cigarette filters, called butts once they are used. Filters serve no purpose other than to keep people smoking, and butts are the single biggest source of plastic pollution. Filters are also attached to the world's number one cause of preventable death. Obviously, the world needs these negotiations to go much further than banning cigarette filters. But if banning filters is not possible, what is the probability this treaty will truly end plastic pollution?

One of the biggest challenges to a strong and effective treaty is the influence of actors with an inherent conflict of interest. As the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights stated during the first INC in the context of human rights implications around the plastic treaty, it will be critical to protect the treaty from conflicts of interest. We strongly encourage countries to ensure that the treaty to end plastic pollution gives priority to their right to protect the environment, public health and human rights over short term commercial gains.

Other treaty processes, including the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, have effectively addressed corporate conflicts of interest. It is within the power of the INC to take a stand and explicitly recognize that conflicts of interest exist and put in place mechanisms to mitigate the problem.

[Key Points: Connecting the WHO FCTC with the Plastics Treaty at INC-5](#)

[Puntos clave: Conectar el CMCT de la OMS con el Tratado sobre Plásticos en el INC-5](#)

[INC5 : Faire le lien entre la Convention-Cadre pour la lutte antitabac de l'OMS](#)