

PLASTICS TREATY

STATEMENT AT INC-2

PARIS – 31 MAY 2023

'We are here on behalf of Consumers International, the membership organisation representing consumer groups worldwide.

Our shared vision is a world where safe and sustainable products and services are accessible to all.

With over 200 member organisations in over 100 countries, we unite to empower and advocate for the rights of consumers everywhere. We serve as their voice in international policy-making forums and the global marketplace, striving to ensure their fair, safe, and honest treatment.

Today, we find ourselves at a pivotal moment in history. The Plastic Treaty negotiations present a unique opportunity to create a safer and more sustainable world. We are immensely encouraged by the enthusiastic engagement of countries, civil society, businesses, and other stakeholders who recognise the potential of this moment.

As representatives of consumers from every corner of the globe, from majority and minority countries we bring the following points to your attention:

As stated by Madam Inger Andersen at the outset of these negotiations, recycling alone cannot alleviate the dire issue of plastic pollution. To truly tackle this challenge, we must redesign products and packaging, moving to a circular economy based on reuse and zero waste systems and eliminating the most polluting forms of plastics, such as single-use and multi-layered items. It is unfair to place the burden solely on consumers to fix a broken system through recycling efforts. We must recognise that ending plastic pollution requires internationally agreed rules, implemented by governments, actioned by businesses and supported by others.

The success of these negotiations hinges on the agreement of legally binding measures to combat plastic pollution. We are thrilled to witness growing support for this cause from a diverse range of stakeholders.

The outcomes of the Treaty must prioritise and safeguard consumer rights. We urge you to consider the following:

- 1. Safeguard consumers' right to health by protecting human, animal, and marine well-being, as well as the environment, from the adverse effects of plastics throughout their lifecycle.*
- 2. Ensure that consumers have easy and affordable access to environmentally sound alternatives, without bearing the full cost of sustainable choices.*
- 3. Recognise and uphold consumers' right to information, adhering to the principles of transparency and accountability. Access to accurate information is paramount in making informed decisions.*

We, as consumers, find ourselves in a distressing reality. Plastics have infiltrated our food, our air, and even our very bloodstream. Urgent action is imperative to address this issue and secure a healthier future for both people and the planet.

Consumers International remains fully committed to and invested in contributing to an ambitious and successful global Treaty. We appreciate the opportunity to address you today and thank you for your attention.'