CONSUMER VOICES

AT THE 3RD SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE

TOWARDS AN INTERNATIONAL LEGALLY BINDING PLASTICS TREATY

KEY PRIORITIES

Legally binding language to be employed throughout the treaty.

Consumers' right to access transparent information about plastic products and packaging. The information should be unambiguous, accurate, easily accessible and verifiable, in order to **prevent greenwashing**.

Non-plastic substitutes need to be made available, accessible and affordable to consumers from all walks of life.

Reduction of plastic production should be prioritised with definitive global targets and timelines.

Problematic plastics such as Single-Use Plastics and Multi-Layered Plastics should be banned and/or phased out and chemicals of concern shall be eliminated with global targets and timelines.

HIGH IMPACT ELEMENTS

CONSUMERS' RIGHT OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Consumer rights, especially the right of access to information, shall be enshrined in the treaty in order to increase transparency and accountability and enable consumers to make informed decisions. We request the negotiators to refrain from the inclusion of solutions and strategies which could lead to greenwashing of plastic products and packaging and increase the risk of false solutions flooding the market.

PRODUCTION REDUCTION AND CHEMICALS OF CONCERN

Commitment and co-operation of businesses and governments to concrete and concerted efforts are absolutely necessary in reducing plastic production, eliminating chemicals of concern and prohibiting and/or phasing out problematic plastics such as single-use and multi-layered plastics.

ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSUMERS

Support supply and value chains redesign to minimise single-use of materials alongside the research, development, and deployment of sustainable and environmentally sound alternatives to plastic, as both a material and a product. Non-plastic substitutes need to become readily available, accessible, safe and affordable to consumers from all walks of life. Additionally, the treaty must include well-defined provisions for the funding and transfer of environmentally sound technology to empower countries with limited capacity and resources.

MOST CONCERNING

TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENT

The provision allowing for the transboundary movement of plastic waste needs to be reviewed. First and foremost, waste management solutions and efforts must strictly adhere to the zero waste hierarchy. Furthermore, developing countries, particularly, small-island developing states do not possess sufficient waste management infrastructure to handle large quantities of plastic waste. Often it is citizens in these countries who suffer the most from the ill effects of plastic pollution. Any exemptions given to transport waste should be for the benefit of middle and low-income countries and these need to be clearly defined so as to ensure environmentally sound practices and not allow high-income countries to delegate or transfer their plastic waste to middle and low-income countries.

INVITE

CONSUMERS INTERNATIONAL GLOBAL CONGRESS

Consumers International's Global Congress is being held in Nairobi, Kenya, from December 6-8. The Global Congress is a once in four years event that brings together the global consumer movement with allies, lawmakers, leading thinkers and businesses that work everyday to make the marketplace better for people everywhere. 300 to 500 participants around the world are expected to participate in the global congress.

Among other sessions, there is an exclusive session on, **'Tackling plastic pollution for consumers'**, which will witness participation from Sheila Aggarwal-Khan, Director, Industry and Economy Division, UNEP, Saroja Sundaram, Executive Director of Citizen consumer and civic Action Group (CAG), and Christian de Boer Managing Director of Jaya House Hotels

To register and to know more details about the programme, please visit, https://www.consumersinternational.org/consumers-international-global-congress-2023/

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CAG
Citizen consumer and civic Action Group