

Art 17: Information Exchange

We would like to delete the last phrase of paragraph 5 “agreed and handle indigenous knowledge in a manner consistent with relevant international norms or standards.”

So the text for Paragraph 5 would read

“For the purposes of this Convention, Parties exchanging information pursuant to this Convention shall protect any confidential information as mutually and any relevant traditional knowledge in line with the free, prior and informed consent of the holders of such knowledge.[1] For the purposes of this Convention, information on health and safety of humans and the environment shall not be regarded as confidential.”

Article 19

With regards to the provision on Health, Malawi on behalf of the African Group fully supports a standalone article on health, whilst also being cross-cutting throughout the text of the treaty as the protection of health is central to this treaty. Recent research has highlighted the alarming extent of microplastic contamination, finding microplastics in human lungs, placental tissues, breast milk, human blood, and even in blood clots in the heart, brain, and legs.

We therefore suggest the following text amendments on Health:

[1. Parties shall:

(a) Promote the development and implementation of strategies and programmes to identify and protect populations at risk, [ADD: particularly populations in vulnerable situations in the full lifecycle of plastics,] and which may include adopting science-based health guidelines relating to the exposure to plastic pollution, in particular microplastics and related issues, setting targets for their exposure reduction, [REMOVE where appropriate], and public education, [ADD: with the involvement of public health and other sectors];

(b) Promote the development and implementation of science-based educational and preventive programmes on occupational exposure to plastic pollution [ADD In the full lifecycle], in particular microplastics and related issues;

(c) Promote appropriate health-care services for prevention, treatment and care for populations affected by the exposure to plastic pollution, in particular microplastics and related issues; and

(d) Establish and strengthen [REMOVE as appropriate] the institutional and health professional capacities for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of health risks related to the exposure to plastic pollution [ADD: in the full life cycle], in particular microplastics and related issues.