

Recommendations for the Global Plastics Treaty (INC-5.2)

Establish a Science-Based Task Force to enact a Criteria-Based Approach to material selection

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GO!PHA strongly supports the ongoing efforts of the International Negotiating Committee (INC), Member States, and stakeholders in developing a robust global instrument to address the impacts of plastic pollution. Reducing harmful plastics is essential and enabling evidence-driven safe and sustainable alternatives and substitutes will strengthen the instrument further in fully achieving its objectives, mitigating **and** preventing the transboundary effects of plastic pollution.

For this, the instrument must address the root cause of the crisis: the unchecked and unsustainable reliance on petroleum-based plastics and harmful substances. **In support of a forward-looking, actionable treaty, GO!PHA emphasizes:**

- A shift toward safe and sustainable alternatives and substitutes with dedicated action to avoid regrettable substitution
- Strengthen the role of science, innovation, and equity across all articles and mechanisms.

GO!PHA Recommendations

1. Recognize the Potential of Sustainable Alternatives & Substitutes

Strengthen Article 5 to enable shift to renewable, recyclable and biodegradable materials. The treaty text, targets, and national plans must ensure use of natural and novel alternatives and substitutes.

2. Establish a Dedicated Science Task Force for Safe and Sustainable Substitutes

Mandate an independent science based body under Article 20bis to evaluate and enable sustainable alternatives, substitutes, and additives.

3. Develop Performance-Based, Evidence-Driven Criteria

Empower the task force to develop and adopt a transparent assessment criteria for materials and additives based on Origin, Functionality, Impact and Safety.

4. Strengthen Health Measures with Sustainable Substitutes

Strengthen health mandates across the plastics life cycle to address systemic health risks from persistence and toxicity.