

Esteemed delegates, distinguished representatives, and fellow observers

We Citizen consumer and civic Action Group, a member and in this capacity delegate of Consumers International, which is an umbrella institution representing 200 consumer groups and organisations worldwide, and across 115 countries, stand here to underscore urgent and growing need for a legally binding and ambitious treaty to address the escalating crisis of plastic pollution.

At this pivotal moment, we acknowledge the progress reflected in the Chair's Text. However, in its current form, is not yet the treaty the world needs. Yes, it offers structure. Yes, it introduces lists of harmful products. But it falls short of delivering binding, harmonised, global obligations. Its reliance on nationally determined measures, voluntary mechanisms, and non-binding provisions risks resulting in a treaty that may read well but ultimately fails to deliver meaningful accountability or impact.

Plastic pollution affects every individual — including all of us in this room. As consumers, we interact daily with toxic, single-use, non-recyclable plastic products, often without alternatives or adequate information. The health risks to consumers from use-phase exposure are real, cumulative, and growing. Science is clear: plastics are not just a marine litter problem; they are a public health emergency, a human rights concern, and a climate issue. Consumers advocates are not asking for marginal improvements. They are demanding transformative change.

To that end, this is what Consumers and their advocates want from Member states:

- Ensure the treaty includes strong, enforceable mechanisms to reduce plastic production, not just manage waste.
- Commit to legally binding global bans on harmful plastic products and chemicals of concern, based on the best available science.
- Include mandatory, harmonised design standards, so that consumers can trust what they use is safe, reusable, and free from toxic additives.
- Make Extended Producer Responsibility schemes binding, with clear global minimum standards, so that producers, not communities, carry the true cost of plastics.
- Reject false solutions such as plastic offsets, incineration, and energy recovery, which shift the burden to the environment and human health.

Furthermore, the treaty must enshrine the right to a non-toxic environment and to safe, sustainable products as a global universal norm, and not just a privilege for a few. It must be future-proof, with robust review mechanisms that evolve with scientific progress and take into account emerging risks to consumer health.

We call on delegates to meet this moment with the ambition it demands. Let us collectively deliver a treaty that consumers can trust, communities can rely on, and future generations can celebrate.

Thank you for your attention and commitment.