

# Health Care Without Harm – Advocacy Brief for INC-5.2

Geneva, Switzerland – August 2025



## Intervention Statement

### A Health-Protective Plastics Treaty: Ending Plastic Pollution in Health Care

Thank you Chair,

I'm Dr. Ludwig Albornoz a physician from Colombia, civil society healthcare sector. I speak on behalf of Health Care Without Harm, and its network of Global Green and Healthy Hospitals with more than 70,000 member health centers worldwide.

We urge negotiators to deliver an ambitious, legally binding plastics treaty that safeguards both **human and planetary health**. We call for the treaty to integrate health considerations throughout its provisions, reject blanket exemptions for the health care sector, and drive innovation toward non-toxic, circular, and sustainable health care systems.

From production to disposal, plastics release harmful chemicals and microplastics that damage human health, particularly in vulnerable populations. Pursuing the highest possible standard of human and environmental health should be a fundamental Treaty objective.

Over 48 million health professionals from 88 countries signed our [Open Letter](#) calling for a treaty that protects health, with no blanket exemptions. A blanket exemption would stall the movement away from plastic reduction and hinder innovation and adoption of safer and sustainable alternatives.

In addition to Article 19 on health, it matters to integrate health considerations into relevant provisions regarding the adoption of legally binding global targets. These targets should focus on reducing plastic production and eliminating the most hazardous chemicals of concern. Furthermore, promote non-toxic design and safe alternatives for critical applications, including healthcare. This will build a treaty that protects both human health and the environment.

The health sector leads the charge in demonstrating viable alternatives to single-use plastics and circular economy approaches for plastic reduction. We urge your commitment to accelerate this momentum to develop a treaty that strongly supports health, human rights, and justice.

**Together, we can create a global plastics treaty that protects public health, strengthens health systems, and ensures a sustainable future for health care.**

Thank you.