



Written Statement on behalf of the Stop Tobacco Pollution Alliance (STPA)

INC-5.2 – Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution

Plenary

Geneva, August 13, 2025

Chair, Co-Facilitators, Distinguished Delegates,

We deliver this statement on behalf of the [Stop Tobacco Pollution Alliance](#), representing over 100 organizations from both public health and environmental sectors that seek the urgent alignment of the plastics treaty with the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control ([FCTC](#)), the world's only treaty regulating the deadliest consumer product on the planet: cigarettes — which also creates the most littered toxic plastic item globally: cigarette butts.

The Chair's Text fails a basic test of effectiveness, it fails to address the source of one of the worst and deadliest form of plastic pollution: [cigarette filters](#). It does not include binding obligations to [eliminate](#) these toxic plastics, which are known to significantly contribute to [hazardous plastic waste](#) and the destruction of [marine ecosystems](#). This is emblematic of the general failure of the Chair's Text, which does not truly protect health or the environment; but simply coordinates waste management plans.

We are deeply concerned that, even in these final hours of the negotiation, there is no assurance that this treaty will be fully aligned with existing international health treaties, particularly the FCTC. Such alignment is not merely procedural— it is a fundamental legal necessity.

Without such [health safeguards](#), we risk creating [direct conflicts](#) between the future instrument and binding health obligations and guidance regarding tobacco product [components](#), [greenwashing](#) through [tobacco extended producer responsibility](#) (EPR), as well as tobacco industry [liability](#) and [exclusion](#) from policy-making. Opening the door to such legal uncertainty, regulatory loopholes, and tobacco industry interference —will contribute to the continuing annual global toll of over 7 million deaths from tobacco use and 1.4 trillion USD in economic losses.

We therefore strongly urge the inclusion of a provision ensuring that measures under the plastics treaty are “in accordance with relevant international health agreements such as the WHO FCTC.” This aligns with WHO's recommendations to [immediately ban](#) cigarette filters, which, when used, contain toxic substances including lead, cadmium, and phthalates. This also aligns with the obligation of over 180 Parties to the FCTC to [comprehensively ban](#) any form of tobacco marketing and [prohibit](#) tobacco industry participation as “stakeholders.”

Ultimately, such alignment will safeguard the [integrity](#) of both treaties, prevent conflicts between them, and fulfill the shared obligation that Parties of both treaties have to protect human health and the environment.

Delivered by [Healthjustice Inc.](#), a member of the [Stop Tobacco Pollution Alliance](#)