

6F Victoria 1 Building
1670 Quezon Ave. cor. EDSA
Quezon City, Philippines 1103



t: (+63) 2 709 6503
e: healthjustice.ph@gmail.com
w: www.healthjustice.ph

**INC-5.2 – Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution
Opening Plenary
Geneva, August 5, 2025**

Chair, Co-Facilitators, Distinguished Delegates,

I speak on behalf of **HealthJustice**, a member of the **Stop Tobacco Pollution Alliance (STPA)**—a global coalition spanning over 120 countries.

Cigarettes kill over seven million people every year. Trillions of cigarette filters—falsely marketed as harm reduction tools—have become the most littered item on Earth. Filters do nothing to protect health; instead, they fuel addiction and, once discarded, leach plastics, heavy metals, and toxic chemicals into the environment.

Nothing in this future plastics treaty should undermine the **World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC)**—the world’s only health and human rights treaty regulating a consumer product, and ratified by over 180 Parties.

As we approach **International Youth Day**, it is our privilege to bring you the voices of young people who are directly targeted by the tobacco industry. Through an open letter, a global youth movement—**Global Youth Voices**—calls on negotiators of INC-5.2 to:

1. Include a **binding clause** aligning this treaty with international agreements, including the WHO FCTC;
2. **Immediately ban all cigarette filters**—plastic or not;
3. Address **conflicts of interest** by excluding the tobacco industry from Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes and holding it fully liable for the harm it causes.

Young people will live with the consequences of this treaty. Please protect them. Align this treaty with international health agreements.

Healthjustice and STPA members stand ready to collaborate with Member States to ensure that this treaty complements and reinforces the objectives of the WHO FCTC.

Thank you.