



The resumed session of the fifth meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC-5.2)

Statement for Closing Plenary from No More Butts (Observer / Civil Society Organization)

15th August 2025

[No More Butts](#) extends our gratitude to the Government of Switzerland for their warm hospitality in Geneva, to the INC Secretariat for their tireless support, to the Chair for his clear efforts to maneuver discussions forward, and to the delegates who did their worked overtime to deliver their mandate.

As surely most are, we are disappointed that member states weren't able to conclude their important work here in Geneva. But, amidst the delays and the disconnects between a handful of member states and the 5/14 mandate agreed by consensus, this session highlighted that the majority have understood the importance of not accepting a treaty that is not fit-for-purpose.

We are encouraged that approximately 100 countries supported CRPs and textual proposals on article 3 regarding plastic products, as well as the potential annexes X and Y.

In various iterations published during the process, cigarette filters (butts) were either specified, or would clearly meet the proposed criteria for a ban, in the text agreed by the majority of countries.

Although we note that the proposals primarily included filters that contain plastic, we wish to highlight that there is no safe alternative for the environment or humans. Cigarette filters do not provide a human health benefit and should be banned internationally. Any substitute for plastic would ultimately be regrettable.

Friends, as the sun sets on INC-5.2, let's not let there be darkness cast on this opportunity. If 100 countries are willing to support a filter ban, they can act now. There is no need to waste time and we don't have time to waste.

We ask member states to initiate relevant consultations and to draft legislation in their respective countries to ban all cigarette filters before the sun rises on January 2029.

No More Butts remains available to support members to learn more and access literature and scientific evidence, including research by the World Health Organization and independent doctors.

Let's build on the spirit of ambition and take action together on the most littered item in the world. The world is holding their breath.

Shannon Mead
Executive Director
contact@nomorebutts.org