



Open statement - INC 5.2

Honorable Chair, distinguished delegates, colleagues, and friends,

I'm Rabeb Aloui from Tunisia and I'm speaking on behalf of the Women's working group on ending plastic pollution.

We gather here in Geneva with a shared mission: to end plastic pollution. But we must be honest that this is not just an environmental crisis. It is a human health emergency, and it is a justice issue.

Scientific studies now confirm that microplastics have been found in human placentas, on both the maternal and fetal sides. They have also been detected in newborns' first vomit. Exposure begins before birth, and its consequences may last a lifetime.

This is not abstract. This is personal. This is generational.

Women and girls are disproportionately affected by plastic pollution through caregiving roles, informal labor, and daily use of products containing toxic additives. Endocrine-disrupting chemicals in plastics are damaging reproductive health, increasing infertility and other endocrine diseases, as well as contributing to children being born with disabilities. These are lived realities.

And yet, in the current non-paper, gender equality and women's rights are barely mentioned. We must ask: how can we build a treaty that protects people, if it does not name those most affected?

We urge this assembly to take bold, binding action and call for:

- A human rights-based approach to the treaty
- Limits on plastic production
- A ban on chemicals and polymers of concern
- Restrictions on intentionally added microplastics, including in cosmetics and cleaning supplies
- A globally harmonized system for chemical transparency and traceability
- Design criteria that eliminate harmful substances - A dedicated financial mechanism to support Global South countries
- Mandatory participation of women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples in national planning and implementation

To achieve all this, we believe that when consensus doesn't let us move forward, opening the space for voting will be necessary to respect the majority's decision and move forward.



Thank you.