Intervention on intersessional work 28.04.2024

Thank you for the opportunity to take the floor.

Delegates, we are at a critical part in the negotiations.

The Scientists Coalition for an Effective Plastics Treaty continues to support member states providing policy briefs and rapid response documents on points of scientific miscommunication and confusion. For example on the health and environmental impacts of NMPs and chemicals. If you have not seen these, then please come and speak with us.

The need for scientific input in the negotiations is indicated by many delegations. As we move toward the end of our time together during this meeting, we wish to make 3 further points:

1) There is scientific evidence of harm from plastic pollution at every point along the supply chain from extraction of raw materials through production and use, to disposal, removal and remediation. Over 4200 hazardous chemicals are used in plastic production, and plastics have been found throughout our bodies. We wish to stress that including human health in the treaty is crucial to ensure the plastics we use are safe.

2) If we reduce, simplify, detoxify, and improve transparency and the traceability of plastics at the supply side, and only produce plastics and products that are essential, safe and sustainable - we will streamline transparency, monitoring and reporting, thus reducing the need for downstream interventions, and reducing implementation costs.

3) The only way to avoid unintended consequences or regrettable substitutions is to mandate independent scientific evidence that is free of conflicts of interest, starting with dedicated intersessional work and strengthening with formation of a dedicated science body to the Treaty.

Delegates, a robust conflict of interest policy and meaningful participation of multiple stakeholders in intersessional work and the future science-policy interface will ensure that the treaty is evidence-based to protect the health of all of our communities, our families, as well as the natural environment we depend on. We respectfully ask the Chair to add this to his recommendations for intersessional work.

Thank you.