



PACIFIC SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

UNITED NATIONS MEMBER STATES

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Statement by Cook Islands on Behalf of Pacific Small Island Developing States on Article 19 – Health at Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution, including in the Marine Environment

8 August 2025 7 August 2025

Thank you Mr Co-Chair,

As this is the first time we are taking the floor, we would like to congratulate you both and thank you for the exemplary lead in this Contact Group.

The Cook Islands is speaking on behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS), and we align with the views expressed by Palau on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). We support the inclusion of health references throughout the agreement—across the preamble, objectives, product criteria, and public awareness provisions.

We recognise the value of a standalone article on health, provided it contributes coherently to the agreement and avoids duplication with other provisions.

If such a standalone article is retained, PSIDS supports Mexico's suggestion that it should not only be informed by the best available science, but also explicitly include traditional knowledge and the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples.

We also underscore the importance of addressing the health impacts of plastic production and pollution on vulnerable frontline communities, including Indigenous Peoples and local communities, who often bear the brunt of these harms.

Lastly, PSIDS continues to assess proposals from Brazil, and others and look forward to constructively engaging in this space.

Thank you Co-Chair