

**WHO congratulates Member States on the progress made in this session**

**We are pleased with the additional emphasis given to the need to protect human health throughout the plastic life cycle.**

**We note there remain additional opportunities to strengthen the text, by ensuring that potential adverse health impacts are identified and addressed throughout the instrument.**

We reiterate that WHO does not support a blanket exemption from treaty obligations for medical and health uses, public health responses or research but instead recommends that special consideration be given to health products, to prioritize continued affordable access to health care while seeking to reduce plastic pollution from the health sector.

In relation to micro and nano plastics, WHO evidence reviews published in 2019 and 2022 reported that at that time there were limitations in the available data on the adverse effects of micro and nano plastics on human health. This does not mean that there is no evidence of health risks from ingestion, but that more research is needed. The World Health Assembly in 2023 expressed concern regarding microplastics in the environment which may potentially impact human, plant and animal health.

We encourage the application of a One Health approach that is inclusive and brings together multiple sectors, interdisciplinary and indigenous knowledge and values, to ensure that the linkages between human, animal, plant and ecosystem health are considered when evaluating hazards, developing preventative action, and measures to address plastic pollution.

We support the criteria outlined in the conference paper on problematic plastic products by Switzerland and others and emphasize that cigarette filters offer no health benefits and frequently end up in the environment, where they release harmful chemicals and heavy metals.

**We encourage Member States to engage their Ministries of Health to further discuss such opportunities and access their domestic health expertise and mechanisms.**

**WHO stands ready to provide technical support for intersessional work and to support Member States in treaty development and implementation, including for health products, leveraging existing WHO technical guidance, standard setting mechanisms and expert advisory groups, as well initiatives to increase sustainability in health supply chains and work in assessment of health risks and management of health waste. In addition, the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control can offer useful lessons and synergies for the INC process.**