Stand.Earth Statement
Agenda item 4

- As we’ve learned from historic attempts to regulating harmful substances, it is important to consider the entire supply-chain, not only demand or end-use of the harmful product in question.
- This is particularly the case when it comes to plastics.
- As fossil fuel companies worldwide are faced with the pressure to wind down production as part of global decarbonisation efforts, the industry is beginning to look elsewhere to secure continued profits.
- In fact, the International Energy Agency recognises that petrochemicals are becoming the largest driver of global oil demand.
- As you all know, fossil fuels are fundamental to the lifecycle of plastics, forming fundamental building blocks of the petrochemicals used in plastics production as well as the energy used in the production process.
- The fossil fuel industry views petrochemicals as an opportunity to keep their industry alive.
- That is why these negotiations are vital.
- A holistic approach to addressing plastic pollution requires addressing the root cause, which lies in the availability and use of fossil fuels.
- We therefore urge that the Plastics Treaty includes obligations that encompass the entire supply chain, including explicit obligations relating to the supply and use of fossil fuels as an underlying driver of plastics, as well as a ban on the production of petrochemicals.
- We also urge that the Plastics Treaty explicitly allows for coordination with other important treaty instruments, including a proposed new Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.
- The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty proposal already has the support of six Pacific governments, who are working towards a binding global treaty regulating all fossil fuels and facilitating a just transition to renewable-energy driven economies and alternatives to fossil fuel-dependent products like plastics.
- Plastics and fossil fuels really are two sides of the same coin, and a complementary fossil fuel treaty would be able to use additional tools to regulate the fossil fuel supply chain that directly benefit and complement the goals of the plastics treaty.
- Therefore, we advocate for all negotiators in this room to work with your national governments to join the public call to negotiate a new fossil fuel treaty, both to inform and create positive pressure on the process we’re involved in here today and create a comprehensive global regime tackling all components of the plastics supply chain.

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