

Substantive elements / objectives

Dear Mr. Chair,

I am speaking on behalf of HEJSupport, SSNC and groundWorkSouth Africs

Plastic pollution causes physical damage to ecosystems and wildlife and results in chemical contamination of living organisms, people, and the environment.

While limiting plastic pollution at its source by producing and using less plastic is the key approach to reduce the amounts of plastics and associated wastes, chemical contamination caused by toxic additives, polymers, and processing aid chemicals will continue to remain a significant health threat.

To address this threat, it is important to know what hazardous chemicals and problematic polymers we are talking about and where they are present in the plastics value chain, to take a step forward to restrictions and bans.

It is obvious that a lack of globally harmonized obligations to ensure the availability and accessibility of information about chemicals of concern in materials and products throughout their life cycle results in persistent contamination of the value chains.

Both contact groups should discuss how to develop a mandatory and globally harmonized chemical transparency mechanism for the plastic treaty and how to link it to traceability requirements for chemicals in individual products. Such an approach will help to discuss this crucial issue and opportunities to include it in core obligations and means of implementation of the treaty. With this, the treaty will contain the critical prerequisite for meeting all its objectives, address the fundamental human right to information, and pave the way for including transparency requirements for chemicals under other MEAs on chemicals and waste.

Detailed information about harmonized transparency mechanism for chemicals in manufactured solid materials and products is available at <https://www.globalchemicaltransparency.org/>

For further information, please contact:

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