



# SUMMARY: IPEN VIEWS ON THE PLASTICS TREATY INTERSESSIONAL WORK

## Key issues and questions on finance and chemicals of concern

### KEY ISSUE: FINANCE

The chemicals and waste management cluster is already severely underfunded. A dedicated “plastics multilateral fund” should be established, with sufficient, predictable, accessible, and sustainable funding. Member States and other sources should contribute to support implementation.

The Treaty should implement the polluter pays principle to ensure that the fossil fuels, petrochemicals and plastics industry bear the environmental and health costs of their activities.

### KEY ISSUE: CHEMICALS OF CONCERN

To protect human health and the environment, the Treaty should include:

- Global and legally binding restrictions to prevent the transboundary threats from toxic plastics
- Trade restrictions on toxic plastics
- A hazard-based approach to address plastic chemicals
- Regulation of groups of chemicals
- Procedures for updating with current scientific knowledge
- A “no data, no market” approach
- A transparency and traceability approach
- Monitoring and reporting approaches

In addressing chemicals of concern, monomers and polymers of concern should also be addressed.

A lack of safety data on a chemical does not mean that the chemical can be considered safe, thus an approach using a “positive” or “permissible” list of chemicals should be avoided as it would not provide a sufficient level of protection for health and the environment.

The expert group should focus on developing criteria-based approaches to determine chemicals of concern. Non-criteria-based approaches should be avoided as they are uncertain and inconsistent and rely heavily on regulatory discretion.

Mandating higher levels of recycled content in plastics is not advised as this would result in increased exposure to and emissions of toxic chemicals. “Safe and environmentally sound recycled plastics” should be defined by the absence of hazardous chemicals and by the ability to track the chemical content of the plastics used to produce them.

### QUESTIONS FOR PLASTICS TREATY DELEGATES TO CONSIDER:

#### How are other multilateral environmental agreements funded?

*Background:* The world is facing a triple planetary crisis, with climate change, the biodiversity crisis, and the crisis of chemical and plastic pollution. While underfunding is a concern for all three, dedicated funding sources are established for the climate and biodiversity areas.

#### What is the difference between a risk-based and a hazard-based approach?

*Background:* Risk-based regulations have proven unsuccessful, as they rely on long, costly, and often assumptions-biased approaches to evaluate toxic chemicals. A more health-protective approach is hazard-based, whereby the toxicity of a chemical is enough to warrant regulations to protect health and healthy environments.

#### What chemicals should be included on an initial list in the Treaty of chemicals of concern?

*Background:* Submissions from various countries have suggested certain chemical groups for an initial list, including phthalates, bisphenols, alkylphenols, flame retardants, metals, UV stabilizers, and PFAS. These suggestions provide a good starting point for the discussion.

For more details, see the **IPEN Quick Views**

