

KEY ISSUES AND QUESTIONS FOR INC-5

KEY ISSUE: A MEANINGFUL PLASTICS TREATY

INC-5 should ensure that the health-protective objectives of the Treaty are supported by meaningful and ambitious global controls, address the full life cycle of plastics, and prioritize the health of vulnerable people, including women, children and youth, and Indigenous Peoples. This includes:

- **Global control measures and not** national rules.
- Regulating chemical groups and using the **precautionary principle** when there is scientific uncertainty.
- Regulating **plastic chemicals throughout their life cycles, not only in plastic products.**
- Reducing the production of plastics.
- **Sufficient and predictable funding** and applying the polluter pays principle.
- **Monitoring and reporting** to track progress and understand trends and indicators of human health protection.

KEY ISSUE: ELEMENTS OF A TREATY

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

- **Objective:** The objective is to protect human health and the environment.
- **Principles:** Provisions should enable a health-protective Treaty that promotes the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, the precautionary principle, and the rights of workers.
- **Control measures:** The Treaty should include controls that aim to:
 - reduce plastic production;
 - eliminate threats from toxic chemicals throughout the plastics life cycle;
 - ensure transparency and traceability of plastic chemicals;
 - control and monitor releases and emissions of toxic plastic chemicals;
 - prioritize the identification and remediation of hotspots of existing plastic pollution; and
 - ensure the environmentally sound management of plastic waste, considering the health of surrounding communities.

QUESTIONS FOR PLASTICS TREATY DELEGATES TO CONSIDER:

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

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.

What is the role of civil society in the development of the Treaty?

Background: Participation of civil society is important for the realization of the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. Public interest organizations, including experts from low- and middle-income countries, bring a broad range of evidence, scientific assessments, and innovative solutions and perspectives from communities most impacted by plastics.

What process should the INC consider when decisions cannot be reached through consensus?

Background: If consensus on key issues cannot be reached, the INC should reserve the option of voting by majority. Without this option, the COP could fall back to the least ambitious approach and decisions could be blocked by a small group of countries. There have been similar situations that have severely hampered the success of other multilateral environmental agreements, leading to weaker or no protections for health and the environment.

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

