

JOINT INC-5.2 STATEMENT: Advancing a Health-Centric Global Plastics Treaty

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As organisations dedicated to improving and protecting human and planetary health, **Health Care Without Harm (HCWH)**, the **Global Self-Care Federation (GSCF)**, and the **International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations (IFPMA)** call on Member States to prioritize approaches in the global plastics treaty that place **human health at the heart of action to end plastic pollution**.

Plastic pollution is both an environmental and public health threat. Mismanagement of plastics can harm health across their lifecycle - from resource extraction and production to use and disposal - while also contributing to climate change and jeopardizing environmental systems that sustain well-being.

At the same time, plastics remain integral to modern healthcare, and the overall environmental and health trade-offs between plastic use versus other options are complex and situation-dependent. An evidence-informed approach based on science is therefore essential to protect health, maintain patient safety and access to medicines, and accelerate progress toward more sustainable solutions.

We believe it is both possible and necessary to:

- **Embed health considerations across all elements of the treaty**, including explicit recognition in its objectives that protecting human health is a central aim.
- **Retain a dedicated article on health**, reflecting the sector's critical role and health and safety imperatives, and avoid blanket exemptions that could slow innovation and progress.
- **Support the transition to a circular economy for plastics in healthcare**, where products and packaging are designed, when possible, for reuse, recycling, and minimal environmental impact.
- **Incentivize investment for collection, sorting, and recycling infrastructure for recycle-ready plastic packaging that is essential in maintaining quality, safety, and efficacy standards used in healthcare**, while also promoting consumer education and awareness.
- **Reduce the use of unnecessary, single-use plastics** in healthcare, instead prioritizing reusable, safe, and sustainable alternatives, where the overall environmental impacts and trade-offs indicate beneficial impact, ensuring that any remaining uses are justified, necessary, and regularly reviewed.

- **Phase out the most harmful plastic products**, particularly those with known risks to patients, workers, and communities.
- **Advance transparency across the plastics value chain**, enabling health systems, manufacturers, and regulators to make informed decisions that protect health.
- **Facilitate close collaboration among health authorities, environmental policymakers, innovators, manufacturers, and health professionals** to align regulatory requirements, maintain continuity of care, and encourage innovation in materials and product design.
- **Safeguard the ability to deliver safe, high-quality, efficacious, and contaminant-free healthcare products** that meet quality and safety standards, through the inclusion of specific exemptions and extended compliance periods that align with regulatory timelines and allow for the phasing out of problematic plastics.

A globally harmonized, health-centred approach will enable the world to safeguard health, protect the environment, and deliver a more sustainable and resilient future for all. The health sector has both the opportunity and the responsibility to lead by example, showing how essential care can be delivered while reducing plastic footprints and supporting circular solutions.

HCWH, GSCF, and IFPMA stand ready to collaborate with governments, civil society, multilateral institutions, and other stakeholders to develop practical pathways to achieve these ambitions together.

Together, we can deliver a treaty that protects health, enables innovation, and leaves a lasting positive legacy for generations to come.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE SEE:

- HCWH [open letter from health professionals on the plastics treaty](#)
- IFPMA position paper on, [the Global Plastics “Instrument”](#)
- GSCF resources on, [Challenge To Change: Advancing Sustainable Blister Packaging](#)



About HCWH

Health Care Without Harm is an international organization dedicated to providing resources, knowledge, and inspiration for the health care sector to help reduce its environmental impact. We seek to transform health care worldwide so that it reduces its environmental impact, becomes a community anchor for sustainability, and is a leader in the global movement for environmental health and justice. Over three decades, HCWH has built the most extensive global network at the intersection of human and planetary health. Regional teams in Europe, Latin America, Southeast Asia, the United States and Canada, and a global secretariat collaborate with partners and allies around the world, driving global and regional initiatives.

For more information, visit noharm.org.

About IFPMA

IFPMA represents the innovative pharmaceutical industry at the international level, engaging in official relations with the United Nations and multilateral organizations. Our vision is to ensure that scientific progress translates into the next generation of medicines and vaccines that deliver a healthier future for people everywhere. To achieve this, we act as a trusted partner, bringing our members' expertise to champion pharmaceutical innovation, drive policy that supports the research, development, and delivery of health technologies, and create sustainable solutions that advance global health.

For more information, visit ifpma.org.

About GSCF

The Global Self-Care Federation (GSCF) represents associations and manufacturers in the self-care industry, promoting sustainable and better global health outcomes for all. The Global Self-Care Federation is the go-to source of information for the self-care industry. We work closely with our members and relevant stakeholder groups to deliver better choice, better care and better value. By placing the benefits of self-care at the heart of what we do, promoting industry transparency, and supporting the regulated use of health data, we ensure that self-care continues to play its increasingly vital role in sustainable healthcare, worldwide.

For more information, visit selfcarefederation.org



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