

Opening statement

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The future plastic treaty has a unique opportunity to become the first multilateral agreement with legally binding and globally harmonized requirements for transparency of information on chemicals and polymers in plastic materials and products and traceability of this information in individual products across the entire lifecycle of plastics and for all stakeholders in the value chain. If this opportunity is realized, the treaty will not duplicate but complement existing agreements on chemicals and waste.

The need to control hazardous chemicals in plastics and include transparency and traceability of information about chemicals in plastics are among the critical requirements included in country submissions prepared for INC 2 and INC3. To address countries' concerns, the Zero draft now reflects countries' suggestions and includes options for increasing chemical transparency and traceability as part of possible core obligations.

To move this initiative forward, it is essential to realize that a mandatory and globally harmonized chemical transparency mechanism should be developed, and it should go hand in hand with the traceability of chemicals in individual products. Both are necessary preconditions for a toxics-free circular plastics economy and resource efficiency. Chemical transparency and traceability are the foundation of the treaty, as decision-making on nearly all its elements depends on this information.

To ensure efficient implementation of an article/target on transparency and traceability of chemicals, it is essential to set up control measures/means of implementation, including:

- An Annex on a globally harmonized transparency and traceability mechanism for chemical information in plastics. The mechanism should also include criteria for identifying chemicals/groups of chemicals of concern to disclose.
- A global database that includes data about chemicals in individual materials and products to facilitate informed decision-making for all life stages of plastic and for all stakeholders in the value chain. This necessitates the traceability of chemicals in individual materials and products based on transparency requirements.

Detailed information about harmonized transparency mechanism for chemicals in manufactured solid materials and products is available at <https://www.globalchemicaltransparency.org/#a13lightbox-work-12609>

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