

Marina Fernandez, researcher of CONICET in Argentina and representative of the Endocrine Society. Congratulations to the co facilitators for your appointment.

As many countries have stated, we need the best independent science and knowledge available to inform the negotiations of the treaty. The Endocrine Society supports a mechanism for direct involvement of independent scientists and other knowledge holders, free of conflict of interest, during the negotiations. Independent, academic scientists have unique knowledge about the effects of chemicals on endocrine and other systems that are adversely affected by plastic pollution. This information is not routinely captured by regulatory testing strategies or tests used by industry.

We should not wait for the establishment of the Science Policy Panel on Chemicals and Waste to receive input from independent scientists throughout the treaty process. I want to reassure that we and our independent colleagues from other scientific organizations are here and ready to contribute now, please connect with us and involve us in the process.

Knowledge and science will be important for implementation and evaluation and for monitoring the success of implementation at the national, regional and international levels. In addition, cooperation between countries and with international bodies will be key to the success of the treaty. The treaty will require a strong independent scientific body fully dedicated and attached to the treaty. Some examples of these dedicated bodies exist in other conventions.