

Thank you Chair and Members of the Committee.

The Endocrine Society represents the world's largest and oldest professional society dedicated to the understanding of hormone systems and clinical care of those with endocrine diseases. Our members' expertise has advanced our understanding of how chemicals in plastics can act as endocrine-disrupting chemicals or EDCs and cause human and environmental health impacts.

From the beginning of this process, we have engaged with the INC to share our insights with Members about the well-established scientific evidence linking chemicals in plastic to diseases such as obesity, diabetes, infertility, and cancer. And we have highlighted the extraordinary economic costs of exposure to these chemicals, on the order of \$250 billion per year in the US alone. We urge Delegates to act with urgency during this meeting and in the intersessional period to make progress towards a treaty that:

1. Emphasizes the importance of both human and environmental health in the objective, and throughout the instrument.
2. Recognizes the need for actions to limit plastic production.
3. Incorporates measures to minimize exposure to chemicals of concern, recognizing that "of concern" may refer to a chemical's hazardous properties.
4. Includes scientists with relevant expertise, free from conflicts of interest, in the monitoring and evaluation of the treaty.

Finally, as medical and scientific professionals, we urge the Committee not to implement broad exemptions for any sector, including fields of medicine and science. We welcome discussions around an essential use concept, and align ourselves with the Scientists Coalition in this context. We want to be active partners with you towards reducing human and environmental impacts of plastic pollution throughout the lifecycle. Thank you for your attention.