



1st June 2023

Statement from No More Butts

Agenda Item 4 of the Second Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC2)

Paris, France: 29 May – 2 June 2023

No More Butts appreciates the opportunity to provide a written Statement to the Secretariat during INC2. No More Butts is a subject matter expert on the environmental impacts of tobacco related waste, based out of Australia. We are a member of multiple global alliances across both Environmental and Health NGOs and are joined in Paris by other groups who form the Stop Tobacco Pollution Alliance.

Option 2 - Possible core obligation: banning, phasing out and/or reducing the use of problematic and avoidable plastic products

Taking into account both human health and environmental health, we join many countries, and support taking 11 b and 11 c into the zero draft.

Made from plastic, cigarette butts are the single most littered form of plastic pollution. Estimates suggest that up to 4.5 trillion plastic cigarette butts are discarded into the environment every year, creating at least 300,000 tonnes of plastic pollution. They take between ten and 15 years to break down and release toxic chemicals and create tens of thousands of fibrous microplastics. They are easily carried in stormwater runoff through drainage systems and eventually to local streams, rivers, and waterways.

Prioritizing tobacco filters as a problematic and avoidable (unnecessary) plastic product under a potential criteria is an important step. We further call for an outright ban on the distribution and sale of plastic tobacco filters that are currently used in substantially all cigarette sold globally.

We offer the opportunity to provide scientific research as a submission for any Intersessional meetings related to the development of the criteria that may help members conclude on the necessity to support a ban on tobacco filters,

Tobacco filters are toxic, ubiquitous, problematic and unnecessary.