

STATEMENT

Comprehensive approach for a treaty to end plastics pollution: Perspectives from the biopharmaceutical and consumer health industries

14 NOVEMBER 2024, GENEVA – We support a UN instrument to end plastics pollution through a harmonized, global approach that also **prioritizes patient safety and safeguards access** to medicinal and medical products.

Plastics pollution is a threat to both the environment and human health, with impacts across the plastics value chain. It is important that the treaty takes an approach that safeguards health and addresses plastics pollution in the environment across the full lifecycle of plastics. This includes reducing unnecessary plastics use and transitioning to a circular economy.

Due to the important role that plastics plays in healthcare, not only in packaging and medical devices but throughout the pharmaceutical lifecycle, Member States must ensure close consultation and coordination between health regulators, environmental policy makers, and manufacturers to avoid any conflicting requirements.

A globally harmonized approach is essential for the consistent application of and compliance to the stringent quality and safety standards that need to be met in the manufacture, production, and distribution of healthcare products. A plastics treaty must allow for the effective transition to alternative materials, with patient health front and center.

We believe it is possible to achieve an instrument that protects both the environment and human health, through **harmonized, targeted extended compliance periods, in line with regulatory timelines, and limited exemptions where no feasible and safe alternatives exist at sufficient quality and scale.**

Establishing harmonized rules through a health-protective treaty will ensure society benefits from plastics while promoting patient safety, climate resilience, and sustainability in healthcare.

For more information please see:

- IFPMA position paper on, [the Global Plastics “Instrument”](#)
- GSCF position paper on, “[Transition to sustainable plastic packaging for consumer healthcare products](#)”

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

About IGBA

The International Generic and Biosimilar medicines Association (IGBA) strengthens cooperation between associations representing manufacturers of generic and biosimilar medicines from around the world. Adopting a patient centric approach, IGBA works to improve patients' access to quality-assured, safe and cost-effective medicines by promoting competition and enabling innovation in the pharmaceutical sector and sustainable economic contributions for all stakeholders. For more details, regarding IGBA and its member associations.

For more information, visit igbamedicines.org

For further information, please contact:

Elliot Dunster

Executive Director, Communications, IFPMA

+41 79 502 76 90

e.dunster@ifpma.org