

## Intervention by BAN at Basel Convention Conference of Parties in Geneva, Switzerland, on May 2, 2025

## Robust Review of Plastic Waste Amendments and Enhanced Control Measures Needed

Thank you, Madame President. I speak on behalf of Basel Action Network. As a Malaysian, I am witness to the tsunami of plastic waste being sent to my country and the rest of Southeast Asia ostensibly for recycling. But, a significant amount of plastic waste has not been recycled and has, in fact, been released into our environments – as abandoned stockpiles, dumped residues, or washwaters full of microplastics. Plastic waste fractions that are not economic to be recycled are openly burnt or used as toxic fuel. People are falling sick. And all this is still happening almost 5 years after the Plastic Waste Amendments entered into force.

For this reason, BAN supports the establishment of a Small Intersessional Working Group to conduct a robust review of the Plastic Waste Amendments, and of the POPs waste technical guidelines related to plastic waste. We call on Parties to take five measures:

First, **extend Basel controls to all types of plastic waste.** Remove B3011, place all plastic waste under Y48 or A3210, and subject them to the PIC procedure, as was done with e-waste.

Second, **consider a total ban of plastic waste exports from developed to developing countries**. This is consistent with increasing national plastic waste import bans and the European Union's revised Waste Shipment Regulation, as well as the plastic pollution INC5 Chair's Text.

Third, ensure that "forgotten plastic wastes" are controlled as either Y48 or A3210. These include plastics still listed in Annex IX, or not listed at all -- synthetic textile waste, refused-derived fuel (RDF), synthetic rubber-like material, and plastic waste contaminants in waste paper bales.

Fourth, remove exemptions in Y48 for fluoropolymers. These are halogenated polymers which cannot be recycled in an environmentally sound manner after use.

Fifth, consider the problem of widespread false declarations and the unchecked flows of plastic waste from non-Parties to Parties, and strengthen enforcement and inter-agency coordination.

Finally, we invite all to join us at our side event on Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> May, 6.15pm, on "**Preventing plastic and e-waste trafficking: Lessons from the Frontlines**".

Thank you, Madame President.