

**Statement delivered by Marina Fernandez, PhD, during the plenary session of the first Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.**

December 02, 2022

Punta del Este, Uruguay

Thank you Chair,

The Endocrine Society appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the engagement of stakeholders via a multistakeholder forum. While we understand that member states are seeking opportunities to involve diverse voices in the discussions surrounding the INC, it is imperative that stakeholders be allowed to participate directly in negotiations and meetings involving technical details of the instrument.

We mentioned in our previous interventions the critical role that scientific stakeholders must play in the negotiations to ensure that the instrument achieves meaningful public health benefits. We are concerned that a large multistakeholder forum in parallel to, or immediately adjacent to, the negotiation sessions could impede meaningful engagement of stakeholders with technical expertise with member states. Our experience with the SAICM process has informed our perspective on how such parallel dialogues could create barriers to effective engagement in negotiations.

We urge the INC to adopt modalities that enable our Society and our expert scientists, clinicians, and other health professionals to provide their meaningful expertise and support in an efficient manner to member states throughout the INC process, for example via regional or national meetings with expert scientists from among our global membership during the intersessional period.

Thank you for your consideration and appreciation of our perspective.