

### **Policy Statement: Use of Plastics**

The Scottish Women's Institutes is a member of the Association of Countrywomen of the World and are presenting the motion at the next World Conference in Melbourne Australia

**Use of Plastics:** ACWW calls for all governments to regulate the use of plastics in packaging and manufacturing processes to reduce the impact of discarded plastic on the environment.

**Scottish Women's Institutes (ACWW Member Number 91084)**

### **Background**

The most recent study completed in 2010 estimates that 8 million tonnes of plastic went into our oceans. The international study calculated that 192 Nations produced 275 million tonnes of plastic waste with the largest being produced by China followed by Indonesia, The Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

Every 11 years the amount of plastic produced doubles according to Dr. Wilcox from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation who was involved in the 2010 study.

At the United Nations in December 2017 a UN agreement for specific, internationally-agreed goals to tackle plastic waste in our oceans has been rejected by the US. Several countries including China and India also refused a reduction in targets and timescale.

The UN resolution is not legally binding