

Key messages ahead of INC-4 in April 2024

BUSINESS NEEDS GLOBAL RULES

The Global Plastics Treaty negotiations, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to end plastic pollution, enter their final year. We must act decisively.

Businesses want a legally binding treaty that is underpinned by harmonised regulation that can tackle the entire lifecycle of plastic products. While voluntary actions have shown promise in driving change, they will not solve the problem on their own. They must be scaled up globally.

We, 200+ global businesses and financial institutions of The Business Coalition for a Global Plastics Treaty, believe that global rules are good for business. There is unprecedented agreement across the plastics value chain on a number of realistic and achievable globally binding rules, which can and should underpin an effective treaty, while enabling a just transition for all people involved in the plastics value chain.

There is no time to waste, and ambition is critical to success. At UNEA 5, UN member states agreed to “end plastic pollution”. We must not settle for a treaty that falls short of delivering this goal.

At INC-4 we, 200+ global businesses and financial institutions of The Business Coalition for a Global Plastics Treaty, are calling for treaty negotiations to:

- 1. Prioritise discussions on provisions related to restrictions and phase-outs, reuse policies, product design requirements, extended producer responsibility, and waste management.** We believe that these are the critical elements which have the greatest potential to deliver change as soon as possible.
- 2. Build on lessons from existing voluntary efforts to shape globally binding rules that can scale available solutions to tackle plastic pollution globally,** create transparency, and level the playing field for industry by implementing and enforcing harmonised regulations over the full life-cycle of plastics
- 3. With limited time left for negotiations, we need to agree on a “start-and-strengthen” approach,** which focuses initially on the plastic applications and sectors where there is already alignment, such as packaging.

About the Coalition

The [Business Coalition for a Global Plastics Treaty](#) – convened by the [Ellen MacArthur Foundation](#) and [WWF](#) in September 2022 – gives voice to [more than 200 businesses from across the plastics value chain, financial institutions and NGO partners.](#)

Together we are asking for an ambitious UN treaty that brings plastics into a circular economy, stopping them becoming waste or pollution.



About our ambition in the treaty

1) REDUCTION of plastic production and use through a circular economy approach

- Reduction is critical because recycling alone is not a viable solution to this crisis. **We must reduce our use of all virgin plastics** – with a particular focus on those produced from fossil fuels – if we are to play our part in seeking to stay within the 1.5 degree climate pathway.
- We must prioritise **eliminating problematic plastic applications** with a high probability of leaking into the environment and **reduce our demand for short-lived products** that cannot be circulated in practice and at scale.
- We must ensure **chemicals and pollutants that pose a significant risk to human health and nature are no longer put on the market.**

2) CIRCULATION of all plastic items that cannot be eliminated:

- **Establishing and enforcing globally harmonised standards** is key to ensuring all plastics are safe to be used, reused, and recycled.
- **Mandatory design for recycling requirements** must be coupled with **targets for scaling of systems and infrastructure** to keep plastics in circulation for longer at their highest value, and so reducing leakage into the environment.
- Establishing **Extended Producer Responsibility policies** that require all industry players who introduce packaging and other short-lived products to the market to fund their after-use collection and treatment is a crucial tool to help us tackle plastic pollution.
- **Informal waste workers play an important role** in collecting, sorting, and recycling plastic waste. The treaty must protect and respect their livelihoods, their health, and their human rights as it enables a safe and just transition to a circular economy.

3) PREVENTION and REMEDIATION of remaining, hard-to-abate micro- and macro-plastic leakage into the environment:

- **Robust waste management practices are required.** Effective regulatory and financial incentives are needed to promote the uptake of circular economy solutions at the local level.
- **We should not ignore existing plastic pollution** – we need tools to tackle the micro and macro plastics that are already polluting our environment.

Additional Considerations

Furthermore, the treaty should pay attention to critical cross-cutting issues: **Economic Instruments** and **Financial Incentives**, as well as **Monitoring and Reporting**.

Building on the example of the Paris Climate Agreement, the treaty must require **making both public and private financial flows consistent with a pathway towards ending plastic pollution and promoting the safe circulation of plastics.**

The treaty must establish clear steps to **create an effective monitoring and reporting system** for governments to track progress towards national and global objectives. To support this, the treaty should also outline the principles for how **corporate information on risks, opportunities, and impacts related to plastic pollution** should be considered.

The treaty should **require plastic-related disclosures by large and/or transnational companies and financial institutions** and ensure that corporate reporting takes place in a harmonised and coherent way.