

Key messages for INC-3

Businesses in our Coalition want a treaty with **legally-binding global rules and measures to drive change on a global scale** - through harmonised regulations on reduction, circulation, and prevention alongside remediation.

The Global Plastics Treaty negotiations enter a new – crucial – stage

There is no time to waste! At INC-3, delegates must seize the opportunity to discuss the core obligations and means of implementation that an ambitious and effective treaty must include if we are to meaningfully address plastic pollution.

The ‘Zero Draft’ represents a good basis for negotiations. Following the discussions at INC-3, governments need to give a clear mandate to the Chair for preparing a first draft of the treaty text in advance of INC-4 in April 2024. In addition, we need the INC to agree on a **programme for intersessional work** to ensure momentum is maintained.

It is imperative that the **final treaty contains strong legally binding provisions** that require national governments to implement and enforce harmonised regulations **over the full life-cycle of plastics**. INC-3 is an important step on the path to this goal.

About the Coalition

The **Business Coalition for a Global Plastics Treaty** – convened by the [Ellen MacArthur Foundation](#) and [WWF](#) since September 2022 – gives voice to [more than 160 businesses 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.

There is shared ambition. INC members need to be bold in pushing for a treaty that is fit for purpose. Leading businesses stand ready to work alongside governments in delivering on this ambition.



About the policy context

The Business Coalition welcomes the 'Zero Draft' for a Global Plastics Treaty ([UNEP/PP/INC.3/4](#)) prepared by the INC Chair, which in our view forms a good basis for governments to continue negotiations at [INC-3](#) in Nairobi in November 2023.

We have published a [comprehensive assessment](#) and a [high-level summary](#) for the sections in the 'Zero Draft' related to our focus areas. Here is where we think the INC should agree on [intersessional work](#) to be carried out:

- Chemicals and polymers of concern (Part II.2 and Annex A)
- Problematic and avoidable plastic products, including packaging (Part II.3 and Annex B)
- Reuse options and new delivery models (part II.5.b + Annex C)
- Product design and recycling systems (Part II.5.a + Annex C)
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) (Part II.7 + Annex D)
- Waste management (Part II.9.a + Annex F)

We stand ready to work with governments and stakeholders in this important next stage of the treaty negotiations.

UN Member States have the opportunity to further strengthen the draft legal text and create alignment on the most ambitious options at INC-3

In our view, the 'Zero Draft' is a comprehensive document that contains potential treaty provisions that could support progress on all three global outcomes we call for in our [Vision Statement](#).

In line with [UNEA Resolution 5/14](#), the INC should maintain a broad scope of the treaty to address all relevant sources and pathways of plastic pollution. At the same time, governments should allow for gradual strengthening of core obligations and future expansion of control measures to other sectors and plastic applications.

With just one year of negotiating time left, the INC must ensure that key provisions in the treaty become fully operational from the very beginning while the governing body should be able to further develop annexes over time.

Businesses respond to (regulatory) certainty

We acknowledge that significant resources will be needed to implement the treaty. These should include both domestic and international funding, as well as mobilisation of financing from the private sector, including via the establishment of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policies.

Private sector capital will play a key role in implementing the solutions needed to tackle plastic pollution. If the final treaty contains binding global rules and clear provisions for governments to implement, business will respond to this level of regulatory certainty by unlocking private investments at scale.

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.
- Under the treaty, **binding criteria and timelines should be established for phasing down or phasing out the use of problematic plastics and additives in specific applications.** We must ensure chemicals and pollutants that pose a risk to human health and nature are prohibited or restricted.

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

- **We must establish and enforce globally harmonised standards** as key measures to ensure all plastics are safe to be used, reused, and recycled.
- **Mandatory design for recycling requirements must be coupled with policies that unlock infrastructure investment and help scale collection, sorting, reuse and recycling systems** to keep plastics in circulation for longer at their highest value, and so reducing leakage into the environment.
- Defining key common principles and criteria is key for the implementation of well-designed and effective **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.
- **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.