

Key policy messages for consideration at INC2 29 May – 2 June 2023, Paris

What are Business Coalition members calling for?

Leading businesses 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.

What is expected from the negotiations, in particular at INC2?

Ambitious goals and aspirations to end plastic pollution in a treaty have no value on their own. **The treaty must establish the policy instruments and measures that help us get there.** In this way, we have a rare and real opportunity to make a positive change to our world by reassessing how we make, use, and think about plastic.

At this second intergovernmental negotiation committee meeting (INC2), **the foundations of the treaty must be laid with clear options for core obligations and policy measures to be implemented by national governments.**

On this basis, the **INC must request the development of draft legal text** that forms the basis for further negotiations.

About the Coalition

The Business Coalition for a Global Plastics Treaty brings together businesses and financial institutions committed to supporting the development of an ambitious, effective and legally binding UN treaty to end plastic pollution. The coalition is convened by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation and WWF, in collaboration with aligned businesses and supported by NGO partners. Together they are asking for **an ambitious UN treaty that brings plastics into a circular economy and stops them from becoming waste or pollution.**

Our policy recommendations

By publishing a set of policy recommendations ahead INC2, over 100 businesses and supporting organisations are calling for a treaty with legally binding global measures to create harmonised regulations in three key areas: **Reduction, Circulation, and Prevention & Remediation.**



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 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.
- 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.

Furthermore, the treaty should pay attention to critical cross-cutting issues: **Economic Instrument 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.