

# The Business Coalition for a Global Plastics Treaty

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.

## Key positions

The treaty must establish the **concrete policy instruments and measures** we need to end plastic pollution – Visionary goals and loose aspirations have no value on their own.

The ‘Zero Draft’ for a Global Plastics Treaty must provide clarity about the legal obligations and policy measures **to be implemented by national governments**.

These are vital if we are to take advantage of the rare and real opportunity to make a positive change to our world by reassessing how we make, use, and think about plastic.

## About the Coalition

- The Business Coalition for a Global Plastics Treaty – convened by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation and WWF – is supported by more than **140 businesses across the plastics value chain, financial institutions and NGO partners**.
- Together they are asking for **an ambitious UN treaty that brings plastics into a circular economy** and stops them becoming waste or pollution.
- There is **shared ambition**. Now we need shared action in the following areas.



## 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 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.

## Additional Considerations

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.