

# 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.