



PLASTIC MAKERS SUPPORT A GLOBAL AGREEMENT TO ELIMINATE PLASTIC WASTE

The global plastics industry supports development of an international agreement addressing the challenge of plastic waste and marine plastic debris through sustainable consumption and production, design and technology innovation, and infrastructure investment. This requires collaboration between governments, the private sector, civil society, and academia to identify and replicate solutions at scale.

OUR VISION

Our vision is to prevent leakage of plastic into the environment and achieve universal access to waste collection. Plastic products should be valued for their contribution to achieving the U.N. [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) and are sustainably produced, used, and recovered in a circular economy.

PLASTICS ARE ESSENTIAL TO ACHIEVING SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE GOALS

Plastics are essential to achieving the SDGs and meeting national commitments under the Paris Agreement. Plastics are vital to addressing society's largest challenges, including improving medical outcomes, access to fresh and healthy foods, hygiene and sanitation, modern communication, transportation systems, infrastructure, and employment. For example, through lightweighting cars and insulating buildings, plastics reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. These benefits are jeopardized if plastic waste pollutes our environment.

PLASTIC INDUSTRY SUPPORT FOR GLOBAL AGREEMENT

The plastics industry supports establishing a targeted goal to ensure access to proper waste management and eliminate leakage of plastic into the ocean. We believe this goal provides a clear objective for countries, industry, and stakeholders. Aligning with governments that share this goal is a priority. Reviewing current proposals, we agree with many of the recommendations included in the World Wildlife Fund, Ellen MacArthur Foundation, and Boston Consulting Group's [Business Case for a U.N. Treaty on Plastic Pollution](#). We are concerned with the Nordic Council's focus on international sustainability criteria, which could lead to production limits of these sustainable materials.

We support a resolution at the 5th meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly (February 2022) beginning negotiation of a global agreement with the following key parameters.

OUR VISION FOR A GLOBAL FRAMEWORK

1

HAVE ALL NATIONS AGREE TO ELIMINATE PLASTIC WASTE.

Adopt the G20's 2050 Osaka Blue Ocean Vision. Allow countries flexibility to develop regionally appropriate national action plans to eliminate plastic waste leakage based on local circumstances.

2

ACHIEVE WIDESPREAD ACCESS TO WASTE COLLECTION.

Ensure access and improve waste management capacity. Support technology deployment, such as chemical (advanced) and mechanical recycling, to increase circularity of plastics.

3

RECOGNIZE THE ROLE PLASTICS PLAY IN A LOWER CARBON FUTURE.

Support life cycle analysis as a means to evaluate impacts of plastics and alternatives.

4

SUPPORT INNOVATION IN PRODUCT DESIGN AND RECYCLING TECHNOLOGY.

Develop global guidance, with industry input, on product design, recycled content, and optimizing resources.

5

MEASURE PROGRESS.

Establish, with industry input, globally harmonized definitions and reporting metrics on plastics and plastic waste, using validated and harmonized methodologies.

COUNTRIES NEED DOMESTIC FLEXIBILITY TO ACHIEVE GLOBAL GOALS

Global Plastics Regulations: Efforts to regulate plastics globally through the development of regulatory standards, product-specific obligations, or creation of international sustainability criteria undermine our vision of eliminating plastic waste. Flexibility is important for countries to adapt their regulatory frameworks and prevent adverse environmental, health, and socioeconomic impacts.

Production Limits: Globally mandated controls should not be imposed on production and consumption of plastics or plastic products. Impacts of proposed measures must be assessed to reduce regrettable substitutions.

As member states move forward with the development of a new global agreement, engaging business, industry associations, and other stakeholders to identify and then implement regionally appropriate measures, it is critical to achieve the goal of eliminating leakage of plastic into the environment.