
For immediate release

Nations pledge to establish world first ‘End Plastic Pollution’ global treaty

2nd March 2022, Nairobi: Today, UN members today agreed to start the negotiation for a legally binding treaty at the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly meeting in Nairobi.

Plastic pollution is an issue of global concern and citizens have been taking action, using their voice and consumer power to demand change. [Ipsos polled over 20,000 adults in late 2021 for the Plastic Free Foundation](#) and found an average of nearly nine in 10 people surveyed across 28 countries think it is important to have a global treaty to combat plastic pollution.

Rebecca Prince-Ruiz, Director of Plastic Free Foundation welcomes the historic announcement.

“For every single person who has taken action to reduce plastic waste in their own lives and called on business and governments to change, this is a victory for you.”

“The Plastic Free July movement of millions of individual local actions has contributed to a paradigm shift, we now have a global call for change. This agreement to adopt a global plastic treaty by UN member states will be remembered in history as the moment we turned the tide to stop plastic pollution.”

Plastic pollution comes at an enormous cost to both people and planet. Plastic pollution is now found everywhere in the environment, it’s in our food, in the air we breathe and our bodies - even found in the placentas. Currently there are no international laws on plastics that enable an effective cross-border response to the plastic problem.

Titled ‘End Plastic Pollution’, the treaty will create global rules and obligations for the whole life cycle, from extraction of the fossil fuels through to disposal, with the goal of ending plastic pollution.

“The cost of plastic pollution can no longer be paid by the environment and the communities it harms. A global treaty to combat plastic pollution is a unique opportunity to turn the tap off on plastic waste and help reframe our relationship with plastics so that people’s health and that of the environment are not at risk.”

“Sitting in the room at the UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi and hearing this decision provides a clear symbol of hope for people from all corners of the world and shows that governments have listened. The decision brings us closer to a world without plastic pollution.”

Minderoo Foundation Director for Plastics and Human Health, Professor Sarah Dunlop added it’s not only an environmental need, but that human health impacts must also be considered.

“Human health is a new addition to the negotiations that countries are having this week towards the plastics treaty. This is because governments are beginning to understand that some plastic chemicals harm human health and because we are beginning to learn that microplastics also harm our health.”

Public opinion on the Global Plastic Treaty

Ipsos polled over 20,000 adults in late 2021 for the Plastic Free Foundation, with WWF partnering to release the results. It was the first poll of the general public about the global plastic treaty and found overwhelming support for a global plastic pollution treaty.

Latin American countries lead with 93% of the region's respondents acknowledging the importance of a global plastics treaty, followed by respondents in Europe and the Asia Pacific region. The proportion of people who think a treaty is important was highest in Mexico (96%), China (95%) and Peru (95%).

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