



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 25 April 2023
(OR. en)

8439/23

LIMITE

ENV 377
MAR 54
RECH 134
RELEX 470
ONU 31

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Commission's intention to join, on behalf of the EU, the Ministerial Statement of the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution

DOCUMENT PARTIALLY ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC (11.05.2023)

Delegations will find in the Annex a note from the Commission on its intention to join, on behalf of the EU, the Ministerial Statement of the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution. The text of the third and final version of the Ministerial Statement is attached to the note.



Brussels, 25 April 2023

**NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL WORKING PARTY ON
INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT ISSUES**

SUBJECT: Ministerial Statement of the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic
Pollution – updated version

CONTACT POINTS: DG Environment, Unit F.3 – Global Environmental
Cooperation and Multilateralism



REMARKS:

With reference to our letter of 18th April, please find annexed the updated version of the Joint Ministerial Statement for the High Ambition Coalition which has been published on Monday 24 April and on which basis we seek Council endorsement.

As there are no substantial changes with the previous version of 18th April, the assessment of the Commission is that this later version of the joint Ministerial Statement, attached to this note, is in line with the existing EU positions for the negotiations of the new international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution. It also aligns well with the current EU legislation in the area, including the European Green Deal and the Circular Economy Action Plan. The statement does not preclude further development of negotiating positions to be taken on behalf of the EU and its Member States.

* * *

Attachment: Joint Ministerial Statement of the High Ambition Coalition



HIGH AMBITION COALITION TO END PLASTIC POLLUTION

HAC Member States Joint Ministerial Statement INC-2

Before the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-2) to develop a legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, we the 51 Ministers of the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution, are joining forces to confirm our commitment to end plastic pollution by 2040.

We, the Ministers of the High Ambition Coalition,

Express our deep concern regarding the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution and recognise that these challenges are inextricably interlinked and mutually reinforcing, and that they are driven largely by human activity and by unsustainable patterns of consumption and production.

Reiterate our call for the establishment of an ambitious and effective international legally binding instrument (hereafter the treaty), pursuant to the UN Environment Assembly resolution 5/14, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full lifecycle of plastics, with a view to end plastic pollution by 2040 to protect human health and the environment from plastic pollution while contributing to the restoration of biodiversity and curbing climate change.

Welcome the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework as well as the draft agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, and emphasize that the new treaty must be aligned with these and other relevant instruments, including in relation to the global targets to reduce pollution risks from all sources, protect and conserve at least 30 percent of ocean and 30 percent of land by 2030, and restore degraded ecosystems, as well as reducing greenhouse gas emissions to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees in line with the Paris Agreement.

Welcome with appreciation the adoption of UN General Assembly resolution 76/300 recognizing the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

Witness the alarming acceleration of primary plastic production globally and highlight that over 40 percent of current production is destined for single use¹, and recognise that the world can not manage the resulting plastic waste in an environmentally sound and safe manner, which will lead to ever more releases and accumulation of plastics in the environment.²

Underline the scientific evidence of adverse health impacts related to plastics throughout the lifecycle, especially for women, infants and young children; workers and residents of frontline communities exposed to toxic chemicals used in or generated as a byproduct from the manufacturing of plastics; and those exposed to toxic chemicals further down the lifecycle of plastics, through use of plastic products and in the management of plastic waste, including waste pickers and waste recyclers.^{3 4}

Reiterate our deep concern about the continuous release and accumulation of microplastics to air, water (both inland and marine) and land during the production, transport and use of plastic products and products containing plastics, and the littering and degradation of plastic waste, which may pose risks to human health and further contribute to the degradation of ecosystems and biodiversity.

Recognize the growing evidence that humans, animals and plants are exposed to microplastics, which can contain, carry and release chemicals of concern, including through consumption of certain foods, such as seafood, fruits, vegetables, inhalation of airborne particles, and ingestion of microplastics in drinking water^{5 6}.

Aware of the multiple limitations and challenges that developing countries, and especially Small Island Developing States, confront in regard to the impacts of plastic pollution.

We therefore,

Call for the overarching objective of the treaty to be to end plastic pollution from all sources to protect the environment and human health.

Reinforce our commitment to ending plastic pollution by 2040.

Recognize the imperative to develop common legally binding obligations and control measures for Parties to the treaty, and to cooperate with stakeholders and other partners to ensure alignment of efforts with the objective and approaches of the treaty, in order to end plastic pollution.

¹ Ritchie H, Roser M. Plastic Pollution. OurWorldInData.org. ourworldindata.org/plastic-pollution. Accessed July 17, 2022.

² OECD Global Plastics Outlook – Scenario 2060

³ Landrigan PJ, Raps H, Cropper M, Bald C, Brunner M, Canonizado EM, et al.. The Minderoo-Monaco Commission on Plastics and Human Health. *Annals of Global Health*. 2023;89(1):23. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.5334/aogh.4056>

⁴ Symeonides, C, Brunner M, Mulders Y, et al. Buy-now-pay-later: Hazards to human and planetary health from plastics production, use and waste. *Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health*. 2021, vol 57. DOI: 10.1111/jpc.15777

⁵ Landrigan PJ, Raps H, Cropper M, Bald C, Brunner M, Canonizado EM, et al.. The Minderoo-Monaco Commission on Plastics and Human Health. *Annals of Global Health*. 2023;89(1):23. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.5334/aogh.4056>

⁶ IPBES (2019): Global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. E. S. Brondizio, J. Settele, S. Díaz, and H. T. Ngo (editors). IPBES secretariat, Bonn, Germany. 1148 pages. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3831673>

Call for binding provisions in the treaty to restrain and reduce the production and consumption of primary plastic polymers to sustainable levels.

Call for binding provisions in the treaty to eliminate and restrict unnecessary, avoidable, or problematic plastics, as well as the plastic polymers, chemical constituents and plastic products that are of particular concern due to their adverse effects on the environment and human health, taking into account the precautionary principle and considering their impact on circularity.

Call for binding provisions in the treaty to increase the safe circularity of plastics in the economy, guided by the waste hierarchy, including by focusing on the reduction of avoidable, unnecessary and problematic plastics, and ensuring that only plastic products adhering to a set of agreed criteria are produced, imported, exported and put on the market, and call for parties to commit to targets in key areas, such as on reduction, reparability, environmental sound and safe recyclability and reuse, refill systems, and the use of recycled content.

Call for binding provisions in the treaty to ensure reporting and transparency in production quantities, material, chemical and product composition, traceability and labelling across plastics value chains to provide the production and product information necessary to ensure accountability throughout the value chain.

Call for binding provisions in the treaty to prevent plastic waste in the first place and if avoidance is not possible, to manage plastic waste in an environmentally sound and safe manner, consistent with other international instruments.

Call for binding provisions in the treaty to eliminate the release of plastics, including microplastics, to air, water (both inland and marine) and land, and measures to address specific sources of plastic pollution, including but not limited to microplastics intentionally added in products, the release of plastic pellets and loss of fishing gear, building on other international instruments.

Call for binding provisions in the treaty for the mobilisation of the means of implementation from all sources that are necessary to deliver action on the ground to end plastic pollution.

Call for provisions to remediate existing plastic pollution, recognizing its disproportionate negative socio-economic and environmental consequences in developing countries, in an environmentally sound manner and in accordance with scientific and evidence-based social, economic and environmental impact assessments and national circumstances, using the best available techniques and environmental practices to avoid exacerbating environmental harm.

Call for the establishment of a multi-stakeholder action agenda, with a focus on specific sectors, to support the implementation of the treaty, with zero tolerance for greenwashing, as well as to share knowledge, scientific evidence, expertise, and technology, and to mobilize financial resources and align financial flows to support implementation.

Call upon all Member States to take immediate actions to reduce plastic pollution, alongside all stakeholders and other partners, and to take preparatory steps to strengthen domestic policy and approaches, including for national action plans, in anticipation of the treaty.

Stress the importance of making good, substantive progress at INC-2 in Paris, France, to take place from 29 May to 2 June 2023, in order to conclude its work by the end of 2024, including by:

- a. Establishing the Bureau to support the Chair and work of the Committee.
- b. Provisionally agreeing on the objectives for the treaty to guide the INC negotiations.
- c. Requesting the Chair, with the support of the Secretariat, to prepare a draft text of the treaty for the consideration at INC-3, based on discussions during INC-2.
- d. Deciding on work to be done during the intersessional period.

Encourage all Members States to demonstrate a high level of ambition in the upcoming meetings of the INC in accordance with the UN Environment Assembly resolution 5/14 End plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument.

Members of the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution

Antigua & Barbuda	Denmark	Luxembourg
Armenia	Dominican Republic	Maldives
Australia	Ecuador	Mali
Austria	European Union	Mexico
Azerbaijan	Finland	Micronesia, Federated States of
Belgium	France	Monaco
Bulgaria	Georgia	Montenegro
Burkina Faso	Germany	Netherlands
Cabo Verde	Ghana	New Zealand
Canada	Greenland	Norway
Chile	Guinea	Panama
Colombia	Iceland	Peru
Cook Island	Ireland	Portugal
Costa Rica	Jordan	

Republic of Korea

Rwanda

Senegal

Seychelles

Slovenia

Sweden

Switzerland

United Arab Emirates

United Kingdom of Great
Britain and Northern
Ireland

Uruguay


