

INTERPARLIAMENTARY COALITION TO END PLASTIC POLLUTION

ABOUT THE COALITION



April 18, 2024



MANIFESTO



PLASTIC: THE UNCHECKED PROLIFERATION OF A MATERIAL THAT HAS PERMEATED OUR LIVES

Ubiquitous in everyday items and valued for the comfort it affords, plastic has become an indispensable component of modern life, found in packaging, clothing, medical devices, and countless other daily essentials. This surge in plastic utilization can be attributed to its unparalleled physical and chemical properties. Indeed, how many other materials possess the ability to combine lightness with remarkable strength, to be fashioned into an array of shapes and hues, all while maintaining a low production cost? The addiction of humankind to plastic is a fact: each human consumes an average of 50 kilograms annually, and global

production, which stood at 460 million tons in 2020, is projected to double by 2060. This trajectory is deeply concerning, particularly in light of the fact that over 80% of plastics introduced to the market become waste within a year. This surge in plastic consumption and waste generation leads to environmental leakage at every stage of the plastic lifecycle; from the production of industrial polymer pellets to waste management practices as well as through the gradual release of microplastics originating from the usage of plastic-based objects.

ALARMING POLLUTION, ALL OVER THE GLOBE

Plastic leakage into the environment gives rise to both visible and invisible pollution, substantiated by the findings of the global scientific community. With each passing day, this community is demonstrating the presence of plastics all over the globe, including in places where we least expected it: spanning from the summits of the highest mountains to the depths of ocean trenches, and from the rivers and soil to the atmosphere, as well as inside living organisms. As such, humankind finds itself overwhelmed by the escalating magnitude of plastic pollutions stemming from our lifestyles and consumption habits.

Coastal regions are blanketed with polymer pellets lost at sea and washed ashore whilst marine mammals and seabirds succumb as they become ensnared by discarded objects and debris. Landscapes ridden with plastic waste and abandoned synthetic clothing are tarnished to locals and tourists alike. In nations lacking in waste treatment infrastructure, waste pickers labour under socially and sanitary unacceptable conditions to manage the influx of consumer waste imported from distant parts of the globe; resulting in its accumulation within local environments. Inasmuch as plastic pollution has far-reaching

and global impacts – encompassing environmental ecosystems, biological organisms, local economies, and fundamental

human rights – it is a stark representation of the triple global crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

AN INTERNATIONAL TREATY TO END PLASTIC POLLUTION

Faced with such a global challenge, humanity has not turned a blind eye and has already articulated its resolve at the Fifth United Nations Environment Assembly where a landmark resolution was adopted on 2 March 2022. This resolution paves the way for the establishment of an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, uniting nearly 200 countries with the objective of crafting a legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution by the conclusion of 2024. The resulting treaty, borne out of the negotiation process, will be tasked with delineating comprehensive measures to mitigate pollution, spanning from the production stages of plastics – including the production of

polymers, plastics simplification, alternatives to plastics, and eco-design of products – to their end-of-life management, encompassing waste reduction, reuse, and recycling. Additionally, it will incorporate specific provisions aimed at facilitating the implementation and enforcement of the treaty's expectations, including provisions relating to financing, cooperative initiatives, skill transfer, national action plans, information exchange, and assessment mechanisms. Ultimately, the effective implementation of the Treaty will hinge upon the ratification by the Member States of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee.

AN INTERNATIONAL COALITION OF PARLIAMENTARIANS COMMITTED TO PUTTING AN END TO PLASTIC POLLUTION

Parliamentarians from around 14 countries and representing a population of 830 million individuals, we have resolved to unite within the Interparliamentary Coalition to End Plastic Pollution. This framework for action will empower us to make meaningful contributions towards the containment of this global blight. We are acutely aware of the deadlock that indecision would lead to, including the dire consequences it would inflict upon the climate, biodiversity and humanity as a whole. In our respective nations,

we are all aware of the negative impacts of plastic pollution and of the measures that need to be tailored to tackle the specific characteristics of our environments, our economies and societies. Beyond national actions, we measure the global dimension of plastic pollution: the solutions to our local problems lie beyond our respective borders as much as they lie within our own. Consequently, we firmly believe that our collective resolve within the Coalition will bolster our aspirations, ingenuity, and

influence. This collaborative endeavour will foster the emergence of collective intelligence, enriched by the diversity of our cultures and

experiences. As ambassadors of this shared ambition, we shall undertake the following initiatives:

1. Advocate for legislation, within our respective parliamentary bodies, designed to mitigate plastic pollution;
2. Foster awareness amongst our parliamentary counterparts regarding the multifaceted challenges posed by plastic pollution, encouraging them to join in our collective efforts;
3. Convene forums within our respective countries to foster dialogues and partnerships on the matter of plastic pollution, convening representatives from governmental bodies, the scientific community, non-governmental organizations, and businesses;
4. Engage with our respective governments through parliamentary debates and inquiries directed at relevant ministers;
5. Disseminate information about our initiatives through the utilization of social media platforms and the mobilization of national media outlets;
6. Pledge our support, when the time comes and within our respective national parliaments, for the ratification of the treaty to end plastic pollution resulting from the negotiation process.

Our actions will align with and extend beyond the timetable of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee. Irrespective of the outcome of the negotiation process at Busan, South Korea, in December 2024, the Coalition will continue its actions. Recognizing that the

fight to end plastic pollution is a long-term endeavour, which bears ramifications for the global community, we pledge to foster awareness, disseminate information, and take decisive action toward its eradication with unwavering steadfastness, courage, and determination.



MEMBERS



MEMBERS LOCATION MAP



LIST OF MEMBERS



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NOTES



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