



## **ICCA Statement on Potential Response Options for Addressing Marine Litter & Microplastics**

Plastic waste in the environment is a global problem that requires urgent action. The International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), which represents chemical associations and companies around the globe, strongly supports the creation of a global framework to catalyze all stakeholders and scale-up global efforts to prevent the leakage of plastic waste into the environment and our ocean.

Plastics play an essential role in achieving many of the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals. Providing numerous benefits to society in a highly resource efficient manner, plastics play a vital role in improving medical outcomes and increasing access to fresh foods, hygiene and sanitation, modern communication, transportation systems, and employment. These benefits are jeopardized when plastic waste pollutes our environment.

There are multiple efforts underway by governments, the private sectors, IGOs, and NGOs to address the challenge of marine plastic debris. However, these efforts lack coordination and therefore fail to achieve the necessary scale to adequately address the challenge.

Building on the potential response options discussed by the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group, ICCA supports the creation of a flexible, transparent governance model with the following elements:

- **A clear vision and objective**—ICCA supports the goal of the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision to achieve zero discharge of plastic waste entering the marine environment by 2050.
- **Common, transparent data collection methods and reporting requirements**—Harmonized, transparent reporting requirements are critical for tracking and assessing progress.
- **Creation of National Waste Management Plans**—Governments should develop and submit national waste management plans toward universal access to waste management and advancement of a circular economy.
- **Incentives to enable a circular economy**—Accelerate implementation of “Sustainability by Design” approaches and the conversion of end-of-life plastic products into raw materials, reducing the generation of waste.
- **Promote environmentally sound management of waste**—Including prohibitions on open burning and dumping and increasing capacity for mechanical and chemical recycling.
- **Scale and accelerate financing**—Establish financing for waste management and incentives for a plastics circular economy, including:
  - Adopting Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR);
  - Encouraging multi-national development banks, sovereign wealth funds, and other investors to prioritize investments in solid waste management systems;

- Matching funders and funding needs—connecting businesses, non-profit foundations, capital lenders and grantors, and local governments; and
- Coordinating and utilizing existing multilateral mechanisms and voluntary initiatives.

Our industry is taking concrete steps to significantly increase reuse and recycling of plastic products. Investments in mechanical and chemical recycling are underway globally through joint partnerships across plastic value chain partners. Such innovations include turning plastic waste into cheese packaging and refrigerator components ([BASF](#)), construction materials for schools ([Dow](#)), and production of circular polymers for use in ice cream packaging ([Sabic](#)), among others.

ICCA notes that much more action is needed and welcomes engagement with all stakeholders as the global community considers options to tackle plastic waste at a global scale. We recognize the recent report released by WWF, the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, and Boston Consulting Group, “The Business Case for a UN Treaty on Plastic Pollution,” and note many commonalities in the elements of a global framework presented above by ICCA. We look forward to further dialogue on workable solutions.