

The business case for a UN treaty on plastic pollution

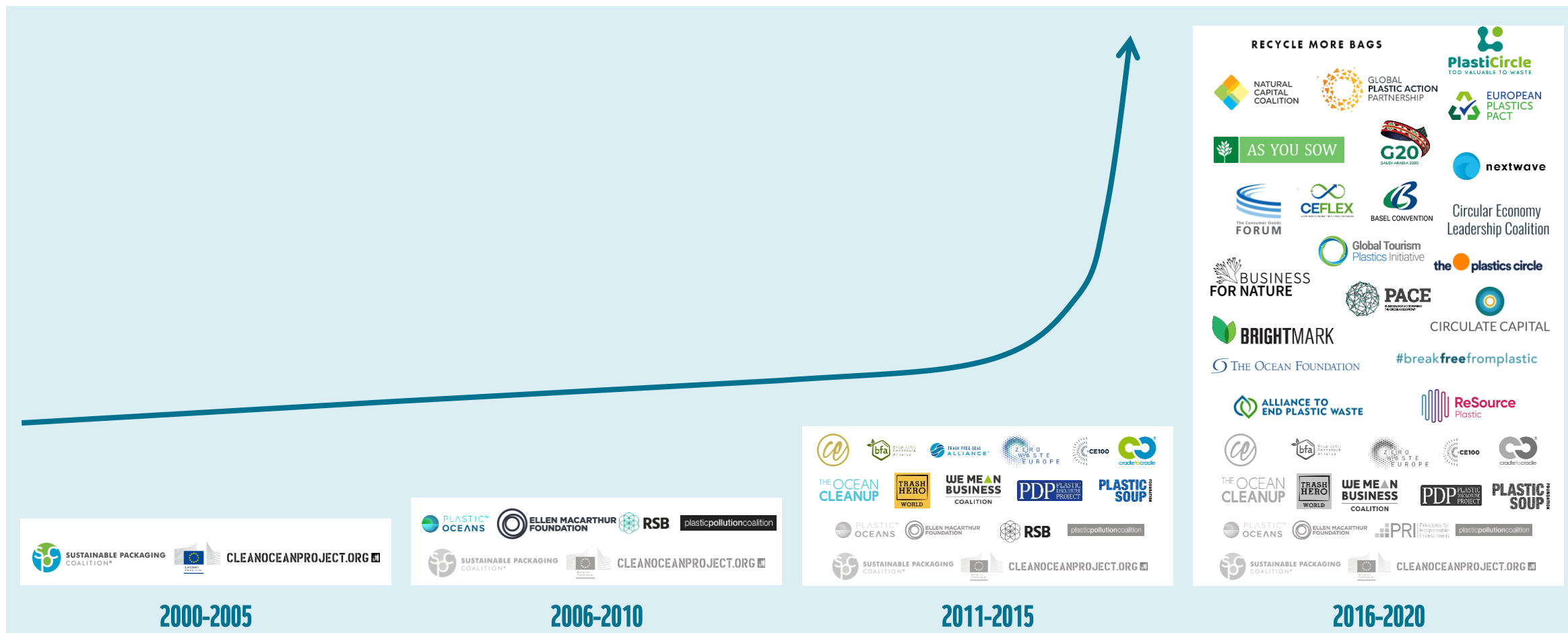


A Global Multi-Stakeholder Solution to Eliminating Plastic Pollution



The number of international plastic waste initiatives has more than doubled in the last five years...

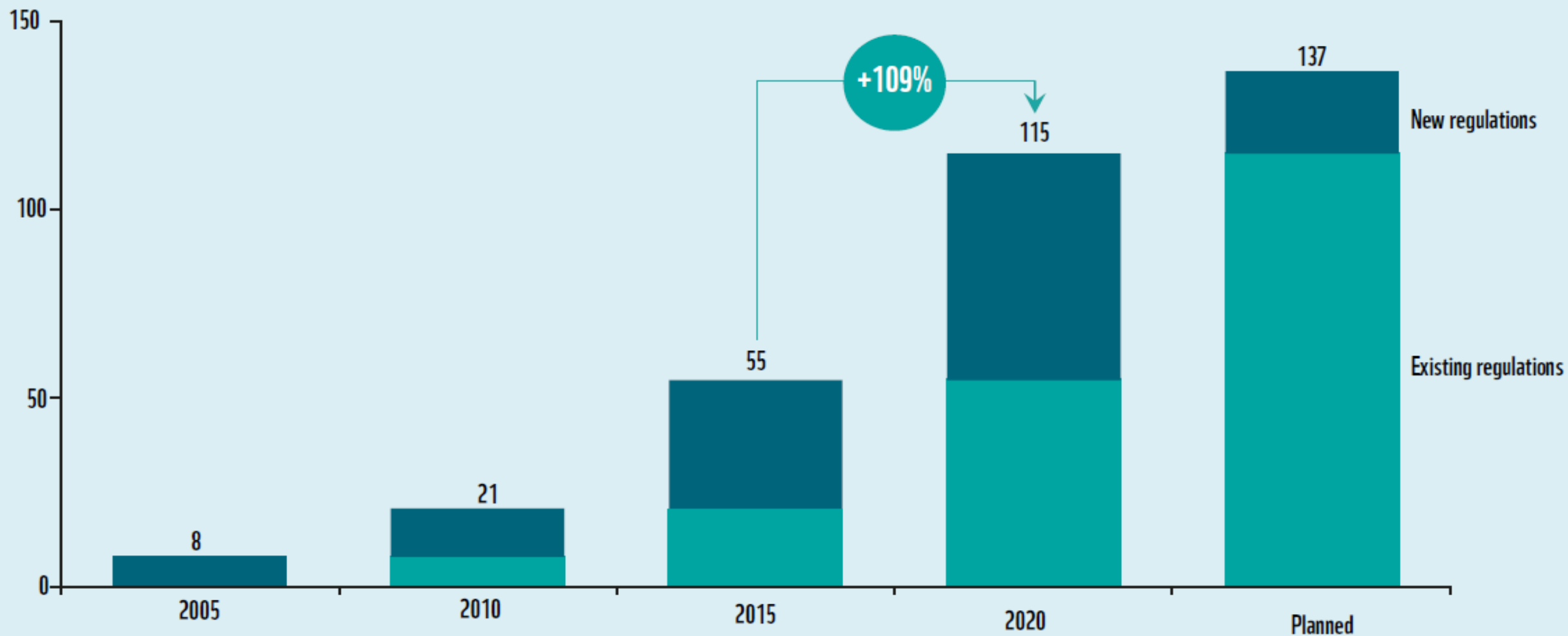
Illustrative - Not exhaustive





Regulations on single-use plastic have more than doubled in the last five years...

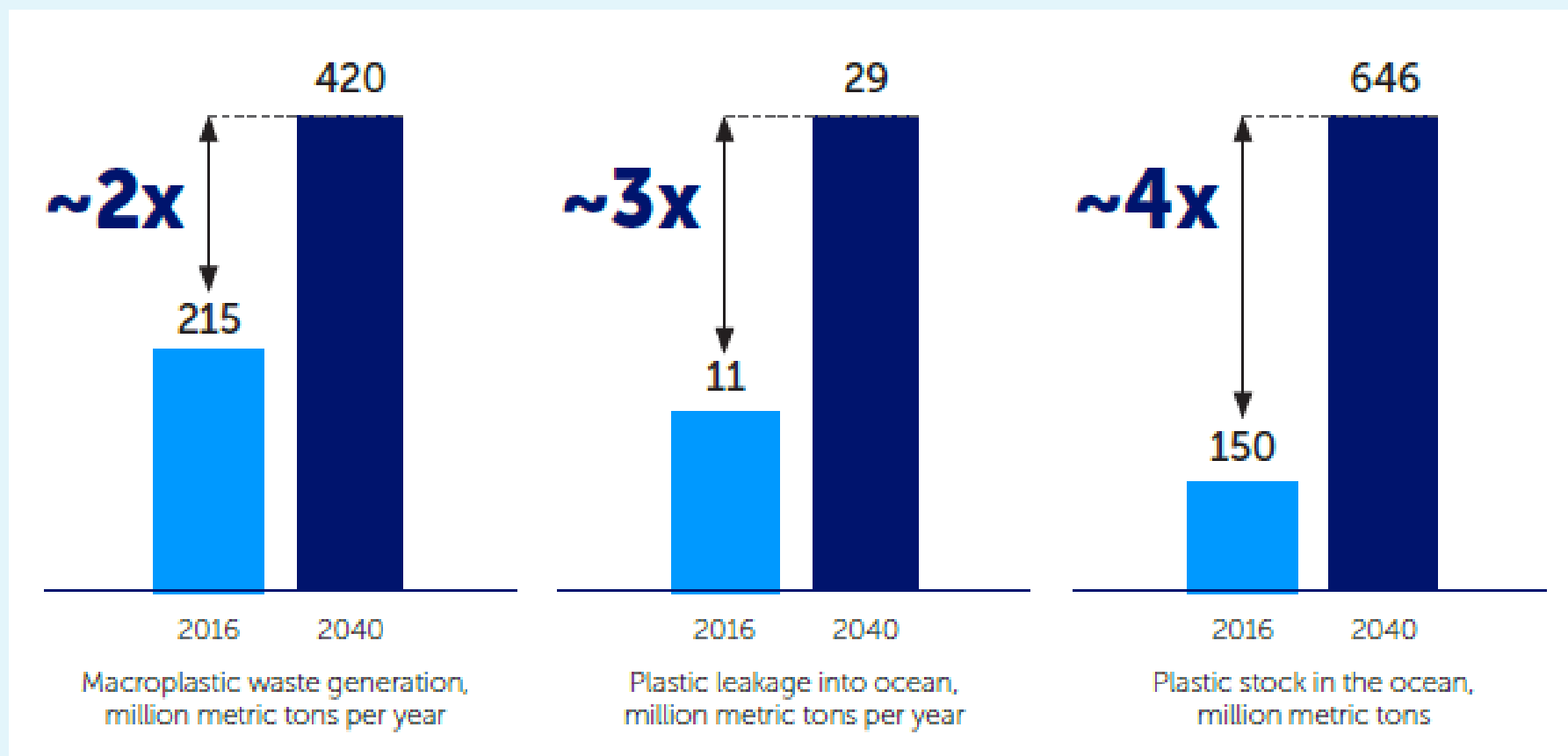
countries adopting single-use plastics regulations



Note: Includes countries with significant subnational regulations (e.g., Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, US); "planned" includes countries with regulations coming into force in 2021. Sources: Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment, 2020, The Plastics Policy Inventory; UNEP, 2018, Legal limits on single-use plastics and microplastics; UNEP, 2018, Single-use plastics: A roadmap to sustainability; Knoblauch et al., 2018, Developing Countries in the Lead—What Drives the Diffusion of Plastic Bag Policies?; press research; BCG analysis.



But the pace of plastic leakage continues to increase...



“In the next 20 years, plastic waste generation will double, plastic leakage into the ocean will nearly triple, and plastic stock in the ocean will more than quadruple”

-Pew Breaking the Plastic Wave Report



Voluntary initiatives lack scale to drive system change

Increasingly complex landscape of initiatives driving change at company rather than industry scale



Regulations are misaligned vs value chain & problem drivers

Two-thirds of countries with plastic legislation only regulate plastic bags – only 5% of ocean pollution



Foundational reporting capabilities are lacking

Only 40% of countries publicly report waste data; no agreed definitions or standard terminology



Targeted interventions needed to accelerate change

Key leakage geographies need support accelerating improvement in core waste mgmt. capabilities





A UN treaty is supported by academics, civil society, governments – and increasingly businesses

Strong academic basis for agreement...



Clear civil society momentum...



Government advocates growing...



...and a strong case for businesses



Source: Borrelle et al., 2017: Why we need an international agreement on marine plastic pollution; Worm et al., 2017: Plastic as a persistent marine pollutant; Raubenheimer & McIlgorm, 2017: Is the Montreal Protocol a model that can help solve the global marine plastic debris problem?; Gold et al., 2013: Stemming the tide of plastic litter: a global action agenda; IISD, 2019; Caribbean Trade Law, 2019; Joint AMCEN declaration, African Ministers of Environment, November 2019; European Commission, 2020: Circular Economy Action Plan



The business case | Four main reasons why a UN treaty is needed, and why companies should support it

Attempts to address plastic pollution face challenges

- A** Voluntary initiatives lack sufficient scale to drive system change
- B** Regulations do not cover value chain and are misaligned vs problem drivers
- C** Lack of basic data at all scales, cannot track progress
- D** Significant structural capability gaps in critical markets



A UN treaty could help overcome those barriers...

- Harmonized regulatory standards across markets, common definitions
- Clear targets and actions plans to deliver environmental goals
- Common reporting metrics and methodologies across value chain
- Critical investments towards circularity for key markets and innovations

...and it could also benefit businesses

- Reduced operational complexity and compliance risk across markets
- Stabilized policy framework to plan investments & cut compliance scanning
- Simplified reporting x-value chain, transparent reputational risk mgmt.
- Enhanced waste mgmt. conditions & scale to meet corporate commitments

THE BUSINESS CALL FOR A UN
TREATY ON PLASTIC POLLUTION

WE CALL ON UN MEMBER
STATES TO DEVELOP A GLOBAL
TREATY ON PLASTIC POLLUTION

To find out more
and support the call,
please visit:

plasticpollutiontreaty.org

BRAND OWNERS



CONVERTERS & PRODUCERS



RETAILERS



Thank You

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