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...

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

# countries adopting single-use plastics regulations

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

Source: Pew Charitable Trusts - Breaking the Plastic Wave
Voluntary initiatives lack scale to drive system change

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

Foundational reporting capabilities are lacking

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

Regulations are misaligned vs value chain & problem drivers

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

Targeted interventions needed to accelerate change

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

Source: Jambeck et al., 2015; UNEP, 2018; World Bank, 2018; Duke, 2020; The Ocean Conservancy, 2020; BCG analysis
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

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attempts to address plastic pollution face challenges</th>
<th>A UN treaty could help overcome those barriers...</th>
<th>...and it could also benefit businesses</th>
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<tr>
<td>Voluntary initiatives lack sufficient scale to drive system change</td>
<td>Harmonized regulatory standards across markets, common definitions</td>
<td>Reduced operational complexity and compliance risk across markets</td>
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<td>Regulations do not cover value chain and are misaligned vs problem drivers</td>
<td>Clear targets and actions plans to deliver environmental goals</td>
<td>Stabilized policy framework to plan investments &amp; cut compliance scanning</td>
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<td>Lack of basic data at all scales, cannot track progress</td>
<td>Common reporting metrics and methodologies across value chain</td>
<td>Simplified reporting x-value chain, transparent reputational risk mgmt.</td>
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<td>Significant structural capability gaps in critical markets</td>
<td>Critical investments towards circularity for key markets and innovations</td>
<td>Enhanced waste mgmt. conditions &amp; scale to meet corporate commitments</td>
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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
Thank You

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