

UNEA 5.2 - ending plastic pollution

The resolution 'End Plastic Pollution: Towards an internationally legally binding instrument', was adopted at the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly ([UNEA 5.2](#)) on the 2nd of March 2022. This resolution comes to an agreement regarding setting an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee ([INC](#)) to draft a legally binding agreement by 2024. From 28 November to 2 December 2022, the first session, [INC-1](#), took place to begin developing an international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

[Intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment](#)

- [Plastic pollution science - Preparation of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment](#)
- [Priorities, needs, challenges and barriers relating to ending plastic pollution at the national level](#)
- [Plastic Treaty progress puts spotlight on circular economy](#) -UNEP stories on plastics resolutions

Initiatives/campaigns

UNEP is actively working to address the issue of plastic pollution through a variety of campaigns and initiatives. These efforts aim to raise awareness about the harmful impacts of plastic on the environment and wildlife, promote solutions to reduce plastic waste and pollution, and encourage governments, businesses, and individuals to take action.

- [UNEP's circularity platform - plastics](#)
- [UNEP on Beating Plastic Pollution, Beat Plastic Pollution Interactive](#)
- [The Clean Seas Campaign](#)

The campaign connects and rallies individuals, civil society groups, industry, and governments to catalyze change and transform habits, practices, standards, and policies around the globe to dramatically reduce marine litter and its negative impacts.

- [Global Partnership on Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter](#)

The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) was created as a unique intergovernmental mechanism to counter the issue of land-based pollution.

- [New Plastics Economy Global Commitment](#)

The Global Commitment has been led by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, in collaboration with the UNEP, starting 2018. The [Global Commitment 2022](#) report provides an update on the commitments of organizations (more than 500) who have a common vision of a circular economy for plastics.

- [Global Tourism Plastics Initiative](#)

By One Planet Network: this initiative brings the tourism sector together to address the main causes of plastic pollution. It brings together businesses, governments, and other relevant stakeholders in the tourism sector to take action, and to lead by example in the transition to circular plastics use.

- **Lifecycle initiative:**

The Life Cycle initiative aims to promote the sustainable use of natural resources through the entire lifecycle of products and services, from extraction of raw materials to end-of-life, to include environmental, social, and economic impacts. The initiative works with governments, businesses, and other stakeholders to promote the adoption of sustainable practices and encourage the development of new technologies that can help reduce the environmental and socio-economic impact of materials, including plastics.

-Addressing Single-Use Plastic Products Pollution using a Life Cycle Approach

-Single-use beverage cups and their alternatives: Recommendations from Life Cycle Assessments

-Single-use plastic tableware and its alternatives: Recommendations from Life Cycle Assessments

-Single-use plastic bottles and their alternatives: Recommendations from Life Cycle Assessments

-Single-use plastic take-away food packaging and its alternatives

-Single-use plastic bags and their alternatives: Recommendations from Life Cycle Assessments

-National Guidance for Plastic Pollution Hotspotting and Shaping Action



Reports and toolkits on Plastics

UNEP regularly publishes reports and toolkits on plastic pollution and its impact on the environment. These resources aim to provide comprehensive information and guidance on the issue, including the latest scientific research and data, best practices for reducing plastic waste and pollution, and recommendations for action by governments, businesses, and individuals.

- **Can I Recycle This? A Global Mapping and Assessment of Standards, Labels and Claims on Plastic Packaging**

This report maps existing standards, labels and claims on plastic packing regarding sustainability characteristics such as bio-based content, compostability or recyclability.



- [**TACKLING PLASTIC POLLUTION: Legislative Guide for the Regulation of Single-Use Plastic Products**](#)

A tool to help legislators and policymakers explore options for reducing the harmful impacts of single-use plastic products. It outlines the most used regulatory approaches and explains the main elements that legislators will need to consider when drafting legislation. Each type of regulatory approach is illustrated by examples of actions taken by governments around the world, including sample legal provisions.

- [**Towards a pollution-free planet: background report**](#)
- [**The role of packaging Regulations and Standards in driving the Circular Economy**](#)
- [**Rethinking Single-Use Plastic Products in Travel and Tourism**](#)

Marine litter and Plastics

- [**Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution Legal Toolkit**](#)

This toolkit is focusing on marine litter and plastic pollution prevention from a legal perspective, aiming to support legislators and policymakers in developing and strengthening regulatory frameworks.

- [**From Pollution to Solution : A global assessment of marine litter and plastic pollution**](#)
- [**Policy Options to Eliminate Additional Marine Plastic Litter**](#)
- [**Monitoring Plastics in Rivers and Lakes: Guidelines for the Harmonization of Methodologies**](#)
- [**Addressing Marine Plastics: A Systemic Approach – Recommendations for Actions**](#)
- [**NEGLECTED: Environmental Justice Impacts of Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution**](#)
- [**Drowning in Plastics – Marine Litter and Plastic Waste Vital Graphics**](#)



SwitchMed Stories

- [**Israel: In just one year, Israel halves plastic bags found in the sea**](#)

One year after the State of Israel introduced a law that required supermarkets to charge customers for the use of plastic bags, use of the bags has dropped by 80 per cent, and bag waste found in the sea has halved, according to government sources.

- [**Jordan: 'One Dead Sea is enough': Jordan takes action on marine litter**](#)

"One Dead Sea Is Enough." The message, made out of plastic waste, was floated into Jordan's Dead Sea to launch the country's new initiative to tackle plastic waste in the world's oceans and seas.