**Non paper: Why join the** [**New Plastics Economy Global Commitment**](https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/global-commitment/overview) **of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation in collaboration with UNEP, the UN environment program**

**1) The science is clear – we must turn the tide on plastic pollution, with a systemic, life-cycle approach**

* **The need for a life cycle approach** to address marine litter and microplastics including **through a circular economy approach is recognized by the AHEG[[1]](#footnote-1)** (ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics) **Chair’s summary,** as well as the **Ministerial Statement[[2]](#footnote-2)** from the Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution**[[3]](#footnote-3).**

**2) The Global Commitment provides a clear vision and ambition to halt the surge of plastic pollution, and it is already delivering notable impact on the ground**

* **The New Plastics Economy vision**[[4]](#footnote-4) **is supported by over 1,000 institutions** through the Global Commitment, national or regional Plastic Pacts, and/or the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative.

**3) The Global Commitment provides governments with an opportunity to implement concerted life cycle-based actions to mature the reflection on the subject before starting negotiations for a global agreement**

* **The Global Commitment has been designed with a life cycle approach**, specifying **concrete actions to each member of the plastics value chain**, including businesses and governments[[5]](#footnote-5).
* The annual progress reports of the Global Commitment[[6]](#footnote-6) show how these actions are **shifting the needle on plastic pollution**; e.g. the [2021 report](https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/news/global-commitment-2021-progress-report-shows-use-of-virgin-plastic-has-peaked-for-signatories) demonstrates clear progress from brands and retailers on **reducing virgin plastic use**.
* Governments and others can implement them now while working towards a global agreement

**4) Action now: Momentum is building for a global agreement to address the issue of plastic pollution, but there is no excuse for inaction now. UNEP encourages governments to sign the Global Commitment and commit to ambitious national actions towards creating a circular economy for plastic**. New government signatories will be showcased during the OOS

## Process and next steps

* Getting political engagement / agreement of target countries’ relevant ministers to join the GC during 2022
* Technical advice by UNEP and EMF with technical teams in target countries’ Ministries of Environment, to help define their specific commitments in the signatory pack (webinar for those interested countries will be organized on January 20th, followed by bilateral contacts):

We encourage your contacts from the Ministry of the Environment to participate in a “Governments Engagement Workshop” to be organized on 20th January 2022, 14h00-15h30 CET ([registration link](https://www.addevent.com/event/wc10789919): https://www.addevent.com/event/wc10789919).

The workshop will introduce the Global Commitment, share commitments from current signatories, and describe "how to become a signatory to the global commitment".

* Signature or at least agreement to sign before the end of 2022, to be announced in OOS (9-11 February)

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| --- |
| for further information about the pact and how to sign it as government, please contact Llorenç Milà i Canals: llorenc.milaicanals@un.org; Ran Xie: ran.xie@un.org at the UN Environment Programme. Contact for France: richard.rouquet@developpement-durable.gouv.fr |

**Non paper : Pourquoi rejoindre** [**l'engagement mondial pour une nouvelle économie des plastiques**](https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/global-commitment/overview) **de la Fondation Ellen MacArthur en collaboration avec le PNUE, le programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement.**

**1) La science est claire : nous devons inverser le cours de la pollution plastique, en adoptant une approche systémique fondée sur le cycle de vie.**

* La nécessité d'une approche fondée sur le cycle de vie pour lutter contre les déchets marins et les microplastiques, notamment par le biais d'une approche d'économie circulaire, est reconnue dans le résumé du président du groupe d'experts ad hoc à composition non limitée sur les déchets marins et les microplastiques (AHEG[[7]](#footnote-7)), ainsi que dans la déclaration ministérielle[[8]](#footnote-8) de la conférence sur les déchets marins et la pollution plastique[[9]](#footnote-9).

**2) L'Engagement mondial offre une vision et une ambition claires pour mettre un terme à l'augmentation de la pollution plastique, et il a déjà un impact notable sur le terrain.**

* La vision de la nouvelle économie des plastiques[[10]](#footnote-10) est soutenue par plus de 1 000 institutions par le biais de l'Engagement mondial (“the Global commitment”), des Pactes plastiques nationaux ou régionaux et/ou de l'Initiative mondiale sur les plastiques dans le tourisme.

**3) L'Engagement mondial donne aux gouvernements l'occasion de mettre en œuvre des actions concertées basées sur le cycle de vie du plastique afin de faire mûrir la réflexion sur le sujet avant d'entamer les négociations en vue d'un accord mondial.**

* L'Engagement mondial a été conçu selon une approche fondée sur le cycle de vie, en spécifiant des actions concrètes à chaque membre de la chaîne de valeur des plastiques, y compris entreprises et gouvernements[[11]](#footnote-11).
* Les rapports d'avancement annuels de l'Engagement mondial montrent comment ces actions font bouger les choses en matière de pollution plastique ; par exemple, le rapport 2021 montre que les marques et les détaillants ont clairement progressé dans la réduction de l'utilisation de plastique vierge.
* Les gouvernements et d'autres acteurs peuvent les mettre en œuvre dès maintenant tout en travaillant à la conclusion d'un accord mondial.

**4) Agir maintenant : Un élan se dessine en faveur d'un accord mondial sur la question de la pollution plastique, mais il n'y a aucune excuse pour ne pas agir dès maintenant. Le PNUE encourage les gouvernements à signer l'Engagement Mondial et à valoriser et consolider des actions nationales ambitieuses visant à créer une économie circulaire pour le plastique**. Les nouveaux gouvernements signataires seront présentés lors de l'OOS.

*Processus et prochaines étapes*

* Obtenir l'engagement politique / l'accord des ministres concernés des pays ciblés
* Conseils techniques du PNUE et du FEM auprès des équipes techniques des ministères de l'environnement des pays cibles, afin de les aider à définir leurs engagements spécifiques dans le dossier de signature (un séminaire en ligne pour les pays intéressés peut être organisé mi-décembre, suivi de contacts bilatéraux).
* Signature ou au moins accord de signature au cours du premier semestre de 2022, à annoncer lors de l'OOS (9-11 février).

## pour de plus amples informations sur le pacte et sur la manière de le signer en tant que gouvernement,

## veuillez contacter Llorenç Milà i Canals : llorenc.milaicanals@un.org et Ran Xie : ran.xie@un.org

## au PNUE. Contact France: richard.rouquet@developpement-durable.gouv.fr

THE NEW PLASTICS ECONOMY GLOBAL COMMITMENT

People around the world are coming together to demand change in the way we make and use plastics. Millions of dollars are being invested in cleaning up our oceans, rivers and beaches in an effort to turn the tide on plastic pollution. These efforts are vital, but will be for nothing if ever more plastic continues to be allowed to escape into our environment — or indeed be landfilled or burned. We need to **tackle the issue at source**.

Launched in October 2018 by the [**Ellen MacArthur Foundation**](https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/) and the [**UN Environment Programme**](https://www.unenvironment.org/), the [**New Plastics Economy Global Commitment**](https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/our-work/activities/new-plastics-economy/global-commitment) unites businesses, governments, and other organisations from around the world behind a common vision of a circular economy for plastic, in which it never becomes waste or pollution.

The Global Commitment brings together over [**500 signatories**](https://archive.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/resources/apply/global-commitment-progress-report/signatories) united in concerted actions to:



##  Eliminate Innovate Circulate

the plastic we don’t need so that all plastic we do need is 100% reusable, recyclable,

or compostable

**GOVERNMENTS**

all the plastic we use, to keep it in the economy and out

of the environment

**BUSINESSES**

**GOVERMENTS**

20 national, sub-national and local level governments across five continents, including the governments of Chile, Grenada, France, New Zealand, Peru, Portugal, Rwanda, Seychelles, the UK and the Netherlands; along with Catalonia, the State of Mexico, the Scottish government and Walloon government; as well as the cities of Austin, Buenos Aires, Copenhagen, Ljubljana, São Paulo and Toluca.

**BUSINESSES**

More than 250 businesses, including companies representing 20% of all plastic packaging used globally; some of the most well-known consumer businesses - L’Oréal, MARS, Nestlé, PepsiCo, The Coca-Cola Company, and Unilever; the world’s largest retailer - Walmart; major packaging producers - Amcor, Berry Global; and two of the largest resource management specialists - Veolia and Suez;

More than 200 endorsers, including 27 financial institutions with a combined USD 4 trillion worth of assets under management; leading institutions such as National Geographic, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the World Economic Forum, the Consumer Goods Forum, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN); and 50 academics, universities, and other educational or research organisations.

**ENDORSERS**

# ANNUAL GLOBAL COMMITMENT REPORTS

**ENDORSERS**

[**The 2019 annual Global Commitment progress report**](https://www.newplasticseconomy.org/about/publications/global-commitment-2019-progress-report) provides an unprecedented level of transparency on how almost 200 businesses and governments are reshaping the plastics system.

[**The 2020 annual Global Commitment progress report**](https://emf.thirdlight.com/link/il0mcm1dqjtn-knjubr/%40/preview/1?o) further shows quantified progress made by signatories in the transition towards a circular economy for plastics.

[**The 2021 annual Global Commitment progress**](https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/news/global-commitment-2021-progress-report-shows-use-of-virgin-plastic-has-peaked-for-signatories) **report** demonstrates clear progress from brands and retailers on reducing virgin plastic use.

# THE NEW PLASTICS ECONOMY VISION

The [**vision**](https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/plastics-vision) has six key points:

Elimination of problematic or unnecessary plastic packaging through redesign, innovation, and new delivery models

is a priority

All plastic packaging is reused, recycled, or composted in practice

Reuse models are applied where relevant, reducing the need for single-use packaging





The use of plastic is fully decoupled from the consumption of finite resources

All plastic packaging is 100% reusable, recyclable, or compostable

All plastic packaging is free of hazardous chemicals, and the health, safety, and rights of all people involved are respected.

 **What has the Global Commitment achieved?**

* Promoted a set of concrete actions following a life cycle approach and tailored to each actor in the plastic value chain to accelerate the systemic transition towards a circular economy for plastics
* Set specific and quantitative targets for leading businesses and governments to measure progress
* Provided an unprecedented level of transparency on how business and government signatories are reshaping the plastics system, with [measurable progress in actions](https://archive.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/resources/apply/global-commitment-progress-report) across the plastic life cycle; e.g. the 2019 recycled content used by the signatories represents CO2 savings **equivalent to taking 252,000 cars off the road in 2019**, compared to a situation where 100% virgin plastic had been used

 **Why is it important for governments to join the Global Commitment?**

* To deliver concerted action with actors across the value chain towards the [shared vision](https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/plastics-vision), while discussing towards a global agreement at UNEA 5.2 and possibly within an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee
* To gain global recognition as front-runners in the shift towards a circular economy for plastic
* To have the visibility of progress made on addressing plastic waste and pollution
* To be connected with a network of leading businesses and governments

 **To join the Global Commitment, governments commit to:**

* Endorse the [common vision](https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/plastics-vision) for a circular economy for plastic
* Commit to collaborate with the private sector and NGOs to achieve the common vision
* Report annually (see examples [here](https://archive.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/resources/apply/global-commitment-progress-report/organisation-reports)) and publicly on progress made in the 6 areas below
* Commit to actions (see examples [here](https://archive.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/resources/apply/global-commitment-progress-report/organisation-reports)) that realise tangible progress towards the common vision by 2025, in the following 6 areas:



**The Ellen MacArthur Foundation and UN Environment Programme call on all businesses that make or use plastics, along with all governments across the world, to sign the Global Commitment, towards creating a circular economy for plastic.**

1. <https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/expert-group-on-marine-litter> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://ministerialconferenceonmarinelitter.com/documents/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://www.lifecycleinitiative.org/life-cycle-approach-to-plastic-pollution/> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/plastics-vision> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/global-commitment/signatory-reports>. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. <https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/expert-group-on-marine-litter> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. <https://ministerialconferenceonmarinelitter.com/documents/> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. <https://www.lifecycleinitiative.org/life-cycle-approach-to-plastic-pollution/> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. <https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/plastics-vision> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. <https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/global-commitment/signatory-reports>. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)