Business Coalition for a Global Plastics Treaty
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3 July 2026

His Excellency Julio Cordano
Director of Environment, Climate Change, and Oceans at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Government of Chile
Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution

Open Letter to the Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution from the Business Coalition for a Global Plastics Treaty

Dear Mr. Chair,

Thank you for your transparency in sharing the Guiding Questions for the Informal in-person meeting of Heads of Delegation to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution. The Business Coalition for a Global Plastics Treaty welcomes this effort to move into the substance of the discussion, and we wish to take this opportunity to reiterate the need for globally harmonised regulations.

The Business Coalition continues to support an instrument that creates the necessary regulatory predictability and sends effective market signals, including to the private sector, to unlock the circular economy at scale and end plastic pollution. **Businesses need these signals to come in the form of common obligations that strengthen over time and across the plastic life-cycle, with a focus on products, product design, and waste management, including Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).**

A global treaty with a harmonised approach is the most effective way to tackle plastic pollution, reducing global mismanaged plastic waste by more than half and unlocking greater value for businesses, our countries and our communities. To support negotiations, the Business Coalition modelled an economic impact study comparing a scenario with harmonised regulations on key elements – *restrictions and phase-outs, product and system design, and waste management with EPR schemes* – against today's fragmented approach in which each country decides on their own measures to address plastic waste and pollution. The results are clear: ***harmonised regulations, stronger economies.*** Compared with today's fragmented and voluntary regulatory patchwork, harmonised regulation would more than **halve mismanaged plastic waste by 2040** and **generate USD 576 billion** in global cumulative EPR revenues to fund much-needed infrastructure. Importantly, the job market would also continue to grow under harmonised regulations, **adding 2.6 million jobs by 2040** across a growing value chain. Continuing with the current voluntary and fragmented approach would, by contrast, deliver only a fraction of these benefits, at a far higher cost.

As the evidence demonstrates, **we need a treaty with harmonised obligations that strengthen over time. This is needed to drive the change at the required pace and scale**, provide the regulatory harmonisation and predictability that businesses need, and unlock private capital at the scale the problem demands. A non-binding, voluntary framework will not suffice.

To deliver the signal businesses need, the instrument must:

Appropriately prioritise upstream steps of the plastic lifecycle. Upstream solutions are critical to the effectiveness of the whole treaty. If the treaty centres on waste management and releases, while compromising strong provisions related to products and product design, it will deliver less effective infrastructure and downstream solutions that will have to manage products they were not designed to handle. Instead, the treaty must appropriately address the full plastics lifecycle, recognising the link between the products entering the system and the system itself.

Include a mechanism for global restrictions and phase-outs of listed products. Agreeing on a common approach to identifying problematic products would be a helpful first step, but achieving globally harmonised regulation would require a set of clear criteria and a process to identify additional products and chemicals over time. Such an approach will provide strong signals for businesses to invest in alternative solutions or for governments to enact harmonised policy.

Establish mandatory product design obligations. The treaty should include an obligation for parties to ensure that plastic products comply with harmonised product design criteria. The dissemination of good design practices can play an important role in advancing circularity. However, requiring the dissemination of good design practices alone would not represent a strong enough signal for regulators and businesses alike and would replicate existing voluntary design initiatives which have so far proven insufficient to drive change across markets. To unlock investment and scale impact, measures are needed to harmonise design approaches and increase the retention of products and materials value throughout the plastic life cycle.

The Business Coalition continues to call for a treaty with globally harmonised rules underpinned by common obligations on products, product design, and EPR. We look forward to the informal reference document that reflects the potential of the instrument to deliver the harmonisation businesses need. We remain available to exchange constructively and share our expertise to support your work as appropriate.

For additional information on the economic case for the global treaty, see here; for additional information on the Business Coalition's priorities at this stage of the process, see here.

Sincerely,

The Business Coalition for a Global Plastics Treaty