

March 4, 2024

President Joseph R. Biden Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Subject: **Appeal for Executive Leadership on Global Plastic Pollution**

Dear President Biden,

We write to you today as industry leaders who are driving meaningful efforts to transition to a circular economy for plastics. To end plastic pollution, we believe that it is critical to reduce plastics' impacts through their entire life cycle. Ambitious actions, such as product redesign, infrastructure investment, and producer responsibility are beginning to showcase the positive environmental and economic benefits of circularity.

As [supporters and members of the Business Coalition for a Global Plastics Treaty](#), we represent more than 200 organizations, financial institutions and NGO partners with operations around the world. Together, we are calling for the development of a coherent and effective policy framework based on globally binding rules. We believe that globally binding rules are fundamental to achieve a circular economy in which plastic never becomes waste or pollution, and the value of products and materials is retained in the economy.

As the US government leads on both international negotiations and domestic circularity initiatives – we wanted to share our support for your executive leadership. A state-by-state patchwork approach to recycling and waste management is not successful. To maximize our opportunities for successful outcomes, we need to complement industry's voluntary efforts with well-designed policies to accelerate progress. When appropriately constructed, policy can be a critical lever to facilitate a successful transition to a circular economy and generate the billions of dollars needed to address our infrastructure challenges. With negotiations on an international agreement on plastic pollution underway, there is an opportunity to display American leadership through policies that benefit US businesses, the environment, and the domestic economy.

There is unprecedented mobilization of action across the plastics value chain on a number of realistic and achievable globally binding rules to underpin the treaty. As the Business Coalition for a Global Plastic Treaty, we support a legally binding treaty that sets the right enabling conditions to successfully scale a circular economy for plastic and end plastic pollution. For businesses and investors, this means creating a level playing field and preventing a patchwork of disconnected solutions.

To achieve this, we believe both the treaty and US action at a national level should include the following key elements:

1. Clear goals, targets, and obligations, with a sense of urgency, that align the actions of governments, businesses, and civil society. These provisions must be based on both common definitions and harmonized standards and metrics, and include a review mechanism to gradually strengthen these over time.

2. A comprehensive and coordinated set of upstream and downstream policy measures in support of our desired global outcomes, which are adaptable to local conditions, including:

- **A timeline for the phasing out of problematic plastics** that hinder progress towards a circular economy, or have a high risk of ending up in nature.
- **Harmonized regulatory and financial incentives** to scale circular economy solutions by stimulating the necessary innovation, investment and consumer choices.
- **Mechanisms to ensure dedicated, ongoing and sufficient funding for the after-use collection and treatment of plastic**, for example through well-designed Extended Producer Responsibility schemes.
- **Provisions to protect and respect the livelihoods, health, labor and human rights of all people involved in the plastics value chain**, for example through the recognition of and engagement with workers in informal and cooperative settings as important stakeholders to achieve a safe and socially just circular economy.

3. Instruments to support implementation and monitoring of progress at national, regional and global levels, including :

- **Supporting a policy impact assessment**, for example through the establishment of a scientific advisory body, to better understand environmental, social, and economic impacts over the whole lifecycle of plastics.
 - **Strengthening the accountability of governments and businesses**, for example through globally harmonized disclosure obligations and reporting frameworks.
 - **Ensuring countries' effective participation** through a dedicated financial mechanism and through capacity building to develop and implement national legislation and action plans.
 - **Improving the transparency on plastic flows through harmonized monitoring**, to track progress towards the implementation of circular economy solutions, for example through using common rules on data, and information sharing across the value chain.
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As 200+ endorsing organizations of the Business Coalition for a Global Plastics Treaty, we stand ready to work alongside governments and stakeholders as negotiations enter their crucial stage in delivering on this ambition. We believe that by taking decisive action on plastic pollution, the United States can set a positive example for the world and lead the way towards a more sustainable and resilient future. We appreciate your commitment to environmental stewardship and look forward to supporting initiatives that address this critical issue.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we stand ready to collaborate with your administration to create lasting positive change towards ending plastic pollution.

Sincerely,

Business Coalition for a Global Plastic Treaty

(Please find a complete list of endorsing organizations of the Business Coalition for a Global Plastics Treaty [here](#))

Cc:

Brenda Mallory, Chair, White House Council on Environmental Quality

Ali Zaidi, Assistant to the President and National Climate Advisor, Office of Domestic Climate Policy

John Podesta, Senior Advisor to the President for Clean Energy Innovation and Implementation, Executive Office of the President

Jake Sullivan, National Security Advisor, White House National Security Council

Lael Brainard, Director, National Economic Council

Shalanda Young, Director, Office of Management and Budget

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TO
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