



Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives key demands for INC-2

This document is an overview of the key GAIA asks for INC2. More detail can be found in the [GAIA INC-2 submission](#).

A binding treaty - no voluntary approaches

All core measures recommended by GAIA are binding. Voluntary approaches have proven to be [largely ineffective](#), and as such should not be included within the treaty's global architecture of core obligations and control measures, or otherwise deflect resources away from binding measures under the treaty. However, existing voluntary initiatives that Parties undertake above and beyond their treaty obligations can be reflected under national implementation and action plans when they support treaty effectiveness.

Plastics treaty objectives

- **End plastic pollution** across the lifecycle of plastics, prioritizing prevention and the precautionary principle.
- Uphold **human rights and environmental justice** for affected communities, and a **just transition**, in particular for waste pickers.
- Support solutions to plastic pollution that **do no harm** to the climate, biodiversity, as well as human and ecosystem health.

Identification, transparency and labeling

- Establish a public **global plastics chemicals information hub** where all plastic feedstocks, polymers and additives, and products that include them, are identified.
- Require **harmonized and accurate labeling** of polymers and additives, feedstock type, environmentally-sound reusability, recyclability or compostability, hazards for human and environmental health, through a global digital product passport system with QR codes.
- **No greenwash**: Prohibit vague, inaccurate, misleading or unverifiable claims or labeling on plastic materials, products or processes, e.g. "sustainable", "green", "eco", "bio", "natural", "carbon neutral", "plastic neutral", claims that hide regrettable substitution, such as "BPA-free" claims when equally or more harmful alternative bisphenols are used, claims that disguise thermal treatment or plastic-to-fuel as "recycling".

Reducing plastic production

- **Set an overall global plastic polymer production reduction target** that can be regularly strengthened through a treaty Annex.
- **Set national reduction targets** that support the global target.
- **End subsidies** and other market incentives for plastics, additives and their feedstocks including fossil fuels, and end subsidies for polluting plastic waste-management processes (e.g. incineration, cement kiln co-incineration, pyrolysis and other "chemical recycling").

- **Set a global plastics tax**, with its monetary value determined in a treaty Annex. [The OECD](#) recommends a tax of at least USD 1 500 per tonne for plastics, and USD 2 000 per tonne for plastic packaging (including composites). The tax could be phased in progressively and increased subsequently.
- **Phase out all but essential products and uses (including phasing out primary microplastics)**, with essential products and uses defined in a treaty Annex. Sector-specific strategies can propose products and uses for phase out.
- **Scale up reusable alternatives** to plastic products, including through quotas for reusable product packaging and industrial packaging, harmonization of labeling, green procurement, and financial and regulatory support to alternative delivery systems and reuse businesses.

Phasing out harmful chemicals

- **Phase out toxic polymer groups**, starting with chlorinated plastic polymers (e.g. PVC, PVDC), fluoropolymers and polystyrene.
- **Phase out harmful additives groups**, intentional or otherwise, starting with bisphenols, phthalates, brominated flame-retardants, PFAS chemicals, chlorinated paraffins, and oxo-degradation additives.
- **Phase out plastic materials that shed the most microplastics** starting with oxo-degradable plastics, plastic foams (e.g. EPS, XPS, PU foam) and phase down plastic textiles to essential uses.

Waste management

- **Ban open burning, thermal treatment, plastic-to-fuel and “chemical recycling”** (incineration, co-firing in coal-fired power plants and other waste-to-energy processes, co-processing in cement kilns, gasification, pyrolysis, solvolysis)
- Adopt **criteria for environmentally-sound plastic waste management** that apply to any technologies that are considered for financial assistance, technology transfer, capacity-building under the treaty. Criteria include carbon intensity (without taking any carbon capture into account), toxic emissions including in recycle / by-products, water intensity, material efficiency, and environmental justice impacts: the siting of new waste-management facilities must not deepen environmental injustice.

Guarantee a [just transition for waste pickers](#)

- **Include waste-pickers in the elaboration of national implementation plans** and ensure they receive fair and reliable compensation for their public service of waste collection and sorting as well as inclusion in social welfare programs. Provide waste-pickers with opportunities to transition into other aspects of the zero waste economy with lower exposure to hazardous working conditions and substances.
- **Require EPR schemes to include waste pickers** that support existing municipal waste management systems, recognize the preexistence of waste pickers in places where they work, and establish structures for public oversight in order to ensure accountability and transparency of EPR schemes.

Enforcement and accountability

- Establish an effective **compliance mechanism** and a **periodic review process** to review compliance and where relevant draw on a range of punitive and non-punitive measures.
- Require Parties to make plastic pollution and other serious breaches of treaty provisions **criminal offenses** under national law.
- Require Parties to **provide communities harmed by plastic pollution with access to legal and other effective remedies**, including measures to ensure non-repetition.

- Establish a **global plastic pollution liability and compensation mechanism**, as recommended by the [U.N. Special Rapporteur Marcos Orellana](#). Finance this mechanism with mandatory polluter contributions to ensure that governments are not subsidizing pollution by private actors.

National implementation and reporting

1. **Require national implementation plans** to operationalize core obligations and control measures, as well as just transition programmes and environmentally-sound waste management. Implementation progress reports are communicated to the treaty secretariat annually.
2. **Require annual national reporting** on material flows of plastics and associated chemicals at every lifecycle stage, including plastic feedstocks and pollution (including microplastics release estimates), as well as on compliance with control measures.

Financial mechanism

1. **Establish a dedicated global implementation fund** with contributions from Parties and the private sector, to support middle and lower-income countries comply with treaty obligations (for more information, see EIA's briefing [Convention on Plastic Pollution - Essential Elements: Financial Aspects](#)).

Fair and ethical participation in negotiations and the future treaty

- Ensure that **voting remains possible at the INC and later, the COPs**, to prevent a single state from holding the negotiations hostage after years of work. States retain their sovereignty through the ratification process.
- Ensure sufficient funding for the participation of **three delegates per Member State** from lower and middle-income countries, to ensure sufficiently specific contact groups to make good progress during the short negotiations timeline.
- Ensure sufficient funding for a diverse representation of **rights-holders from communities** affected by plastic pollution across its lifecycle.
- **Do not waste precious negotiations time and financial resources** on multi-stakeholder forums. GAIA rejects the blanket term "stakeholders" and the false symmetry it implies between perpetrators of plastic pollution and affected communities.
- **Exclude Big Plastics corporations** from negotiations and future plastic treaty COPs given the [*"fundamental and irreconcilable conflict between the interests of the plastics industry and businesses deeply implicated throughout its supply chain and the human rights and policy interests of people affected by the plastics crisis"*](#), following the model of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

For more detail on the above as well as recommendations on closing trade loopholes, sector-specific strategies and monitoring, see the [GAIA INC-2 submission](#).

Core obligations and control measures by theme

| Identification, transparency and labeling | Reducing overall production | Phasing out harmful polymers and additives | Closing trade loopholes | Environmentally-just and sound waste management |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Identify all plastic feedstocks, polymers and additives, and products that include them, within a public global plastics chemicals information hub -Require harmonized and accurate labeling (chemical composition, waste management, hazards) -Prohibit vague, inaccurate, misleading or unverifiable claims or labeling on plastic materials, products and processes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Overall plastic polymer production reduction target -National reduction targets -End market incentives for plastics, additives and feedstocks, including subsidies -Plastics tax -Phase out non-essential products and uses (including primary microplastics) -Quotas for reusable product and industrial packaging -Scale up reusable alternatives to plastic products | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Phase out toxic polymer groups -Phase out harmful additives groups -Phase out plastic materials that shed the most microplastics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Plastics trade tracking system -Trade ban on plastics and additives after phase-out -Non-Party trade ban on phase-out plastics and additives (prior to and after phase-out dates) -Prior informed consent for trade of plastic products not compliant with treaty design criteria -Ban all plastic waste exports to non-OECD countries, and strictly minimize all other plastic waste trade -Ban the export of plastic waste for thermal treatment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Design criteria for reuse, repair and safe mechanical recycling, supported by EPR fees eco-modulation -Criteria for environmentally-sound plastic waste management (for finance, capacity-building and technology transfer) - Environmental justice criteria in facility shut-down and siting decisions <p>(see also measures on transparency, monitoring and access to effective remedy, all relevant to environmental justice).</p> |
| Sector-specific strategies | Just transition for waste pickers | Reporting, enforcement & accountability | Monitoring & assessment | Financial mechanisms |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Sector-specific strategies for consideration of phaseout candidates, cooperation with existing instruments and deeper engagement of rights-holders <p>(Key sectors: packaging, agriculture & landscaping, fishing & aquaculture, textiles, vehicles, shipping, tourism & hospitality, medical & paramedical, electronics, construction & demolition, disaster relief & emergency services).</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Guarantee a just transition for workers including waste pickers -Criteria for effective EPR schemes inclusive of waste pickers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Compliance mechanism and period review process -Serious treaty breaches are criminal offenses under national law -Support affected communities' access to effective remedy -Global plastic pollution liability and compensation mechanism -National implementation plans -National reporting on material flows of plastics and associated chemicals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -National monitoring of plastic pollution and toxic exposures of fenceline communities -Coordinated monitoring of high seas plastic pollution -Scientific body to adopt baselines, standards, methodologies and definitions; evaluate environmental and health costs; environmental justice, Indigenous rights and human rights impacts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -National finance through national plastics taxes and EPR schemes -Dedicated global implementation fund -Coordination to facilitate access to existing plastics-adjacent funding |