



Plastic Waste Partnership

Basel Convention

on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal

Plastic waste—A Global Problem

The pollution of our marine and terrestrial environment by plastic waste is one of the most pressing global environmental challenges faced today. Over the last ten years, we have produced more plastic than during the whole of the last century: global plastic production has increased steadily and reached 320 million tonnes a year. Of the estimated 6.3 billion tonnes of plastic waste produced since the 1950s, only 9% has been recycled and another 12% incinerated. An estimated 100 million tonnes of plastic is in our seas, 80-90% of which has come from land-based sources. The good news is, since an estimated 80% of that land-based waste is due to a lack of efficient collection and management schemes, the problem is solvable.

Why the Basel Convention?

We all know it is not sustainable to clean up plastic pollution once it has entered the environment. Instead, the problem must be tackled by preventing and minimizing its generation in the first place and by encouraging its reuse, recycling, and where it cannot be avoided, safe disposal. At their meeting in May 2019, 187 governments who are party to the Basel Convention, the most comprehensive global agreement on waste, adopted landmark decisions on plastic waste. Firstly, the Basel Convention was amended to better control plastic waste under its legally-binding framework, which will make global trade in plastic waste more transparent and tightly regulated. Secondly, a Plastic Waste Partnership was established to mobilise business, government, academic and civil society actors, to tackle the growing problem of plastic waste.

Plastic Waste Partnership: its goal and scope

The goal of the Partnership is to improve and promote the environmentally sound management of plastic waste at the global, regional and national levels and prevent and minimize its generation. It is intended to reduce significantly and, in the long-term, eliminate, the discharge of plastic waste and microplastics into the environment, in particular the marine environment.

The Partnership covers all plastic waste, including waste containing plastics, generated nationally and disposed of at the national level, as well as those which are imported or exported for waste management operations, taking into account the entire life-cycle of plastics.

Becoming a member

Membership of the working group of the Partnership is open to Parties to the Basel Convention, intergovernmental organizations, industry, academia and civil society, that are either dealing with or impacted by the different aspects of the prevention, minimization and management of plastic waste. Organizations wishing to become a member of the Partnership working group should contact Susan Wingfield (susan.wingfield@brsmeas.org) and Melisa Lim (melisa.lim@brsmeas.org) from the BRS Secretariat for further information.

For further information on the Plastic Waste Partnership, please visit: <http://www.basel.int/implementation/Plasticwastes/PlasticWastePartnership/tabid/8096/Default.aspx>



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Advance collaboration with the private sector

- * Stimulate innovations for increasing the durability, reusability, reparability and recyclability of plastics and avoiding the use of hazardous substances
- * Explore how the quality of recycled plastic can be maintained through repeated circular operations
- * Explore how value chains can be established to improve the economic viability of the separation, collection and recycling of plastic waste
- * Engage the private sector in the environmentally sound management of plastic waste, taking into account the entire life-cycle of plastics



Partnership areas for action

Strengthen policy and regulatory frameworks

- * Stimulate the development of strategies and policies on the prevention, minimization and environmentally sound management of plastic waste

Promote the environmentally sound management of plastic waste

- * Analyze barriers, best practices and implement solutions for the environmentally sound management of plastic waste
- * Launch pilot projects on the prevention, minimization, collection and environmentally sound management of plastic waste
- * Identify national, regional and international initiatives and actors that can provide capacity building, technical advice and technology transfer



Stimulate outreach, education and awareness-raising

- * Undertake or contribute to outreach, education and awareness-raising activities on the prevention, minimization and environmentally sound management of plastic waste



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