

June 2022

UNITED STATES LEADERSHIP AND CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT NEEDED FOR NEW PLASTICS TREATY

Pollution from plastic use and manufacture is one of the greatest environmental, climate, and human health crises of our time. The solutions to plastic pollution must be complex, transboundary, and multilateral. With plastic pollution sources so varied, ranging from textiles and tire dust to plastic bottles and packaging, the global response must be holistic and dynamic, with coordinated action by diverse stakeholders at all levels. Because of the growing recognition that comprehensive global action is necessary, **countries agreed in February 2022 to negotiate a new international agreement focused on ending plastic pollution.**

THE WORK SO FAR

- **2018 - 2020:** Experts & States participated in a 2.5-year, 4-meeting Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group (AHEG) to evaluate the sources and response options for plastic pollution.
- **Jan 2021:** Effective date of changes made to the Basel Convention requiring prior informed consent for international trade of mixed plastic waste.
- **Feb 2022:** 175+ UN Member Nations agreed by consensus to negotiate a new treaty to end plastic pollution by 2024, with adoption and signing in 2025.
- **May 2022:** Open Ended Working Group met in Dakar, Senegal, and virtually to determine the rules of procedure for treaty negotiations, among other things.

TIMELINE

- INC = Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee
- Conference of Plenipotentiaries = adoption and signing of the negotiated treaty



WHAT'S NEEDED:

- ▶ The United States must **lead in negotiations for an ambitious treaty** to end plastic pollution, one that is truly fit for purpose to address harm along the **full plastic life cycle**.
- ▶ **National Action Plans** will be a key implementation mechanism of the new treaty. The US should set a strong example for such a reduction plan. Congress should adopt the **Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act** as a **model blueprint for national action**.
- ▶ The President, State Department, and EPA need to **hear from Members of Congress** that there is widespread support for **ambition and action to end plastic pollution**.

