

PRESS RELEASE
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More than 900 independent scientists have signed a new declaration calling UN negotiators to agree on a comprehensive and ambitious global plastics treaty based on robust scientific evidence to end plastic pollution by 2040

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About the declaration

A [new declaration](#) has been signed by [over 900 independent scientists](#) just ahead of the next United Nations Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee's [fifth meeting](#) (INC-5) to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution. The meeting takes place in Busan, Republic of Korea.

To protect human health and the environment, these independent scientists from all corners of the world are calling on members of the negotiating committee to agree on a comprehensive and ambitious global plastics treaty that uses the available and robust scientific evidence to end plastic pollution by 2040. Considering the robust scientific evidence, the declaration outlines a range of legally binding obligations needed across the full life cycle of plastics to achieve a successful treaty.

The declaration's signatories are independent scientists with expertise on plastics who are free of conflicts of interest in the plastics supply chain. Launched by a group of international, independent plastics scientists, the declaration has been signed by a broad community of scientists and remains [open for signature](#) by more.

Independent scientists support an ambitious and effective global plastics treaty

We are facing a triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. Plastic pollution represents a serious environmental and human health problem at a global scale, negatively impacting the environmental, social, and economic dimensions of sustainable development. Independent scientific evidence shows that plastics production and use exceed our ability to prevent pollution and harm. Plastics and their associated chemicals are transboundary and pollute every part of the planet, including human bodies.

The scientific community has researched the sources, fate, and effects of plastics pollution for decades, leading to the adoption of a United Nations resolution to negotiate the global plastics treaty. This community continues to support INC delegates through the negotiating process with broad, independent, and multidisciplinary science to enable evidence-based decision-making.

Leading Authors of the Declaration

Bethanie Carney Almroth (University of Gothenburg), Trisia Farelly (Massey University & Cawthron Institute), Richard Thompson (University of Plymouth), Susanne Brander (Oregon State University), Marie-France Dignac (French National Institute for Agriculture, Food, and Environment – INRAE), Kristian Syberg (Roskilde University), Marina Fernandez (CONICET)

Reviewers of the Declaration

Juan Jose Alava, Rana Al-jalbachi, Melanie Bergmann, Justin Boucher, Winnie Courtene-Jones, Megan Deeney, Jorge Emmanuel, Ricarda Fieber, Randika Jayasinghe, Annika Jahnke, Esther Kentin, Therese Karlsson, Ildiko Kriston, Melanie Macgregor, Charles Moore, Carmen Morales, Florin-Constantin Mihai, Jane Muncke, Alethia Vázquez Morillas, Patricia Villarrubia-Gómez, Anusha Rajkaran, Peter Stoett, Hideshige Takada, Dorte Herzke, Christos Symeonides, Judith Weis, Tony Walker

Quotes from some signatories of the Scientists' Declaration

Bethanie Carney Almroth, Professor at the University of Gothenburg (Sweden), said:

"This treaty presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to address one of the major crises of our time. The plastics pollution problem is global and transboundary, and requires a global, legally binding instrument that will address plastics throughout the life cycle, from extraction and production to use and waste, in order to be effective."

Ishmail Sheriff, PhD Candidate at Universiti Sains Malaysia (Malaysia), said:

"As a researcher in this domain, I would like to see an effective treaty with stringent measures based on the best available science on addressing plastic pollution from cradle to grave."

Marina Tagliaferro, Associate Professor at CADIC-CONICET (Argentina), said:

"I am concerned about the levels of pollution and damage to the health of our ecosystems and the human population."

Richard Thompson, Professor at the University of Plymouth (United Kingdom), said:

"Reaching agreement on a strong and binding treaty is in my view critical to the future of our planet and all who live on it."

Susanne Brander, Associate Professor at Oregon State University (United States), said:

"Plastics have become one of our greatest environmental challenges. We must make a concerted effort to reduce production, limit exposure to plastic chemicals and particles, and strive for circularity in order to prevent further waste accumulation."

Trisia Farrelly, Professor and Senior Scientist at Massey University and Cawthron Institute (New Zealand), said:

"A successful, effective, and comprehensive global plastics treaty depends on independent and robust scientific evidence, the lived expertise of frontline and fenceline communities, and the wisdom of Indigenous rights holders"

Verdiana Grace Masanja, Professor Emerita at the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (Tanzania), said:

"I am endorsing this declaration to rescue the terrestrial well-being."