## **Canada’s voice: towards an ambitious new legally binding global agreement on plastic pollution (fall 2023)**

*Consultation - Environment and Climate Change Canada*

How can Canada support global efforts to end plastic pollution? We want to hear from you!

**What is the issue?**

Plastic pollution is a global issue that requires urgent action. Unsustainable plastic production and consumption, and the associated waste and pollution generated, continue to accelerate at an unprecedented rate. Canada understands that plastic pollution is a transboundary issue – once it enters the environment, it can travel beyond national borders. This is why Canada supports efforts to end plastic pollution and is actively contributing to the development of a ***new international legally binding agreement on plastic pollution*** (the agreement).

Since the initial decision to develop a new agreement was taken in March 2022, during the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5), Canada has been working with partners at home and abroad to ensure that the agreement will be ambitious, effective and take a coordinated, resource efficient and circular economy approach with complementary solutions across the full lifecycle of plastics (i.e. from production to end-of-life).

**Current Status: United Nations Plastic Agreement Negotiations**

An Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) has been established to develop the agreement by 2024, over five negotiation sessions. Two sessions have already taken place, with the most recent taking place in Paris, France from May 29 to June 2, 2023. During this meeting, two important decisions were made:

1. The INC requested the Chair of the INC, with the support of the secretariat, to ***prepare a ‘zero-draft’ text*** of the global agreement for its consideration at the third negotiation session (INC-3), which will take place in Nairobi, Kenya from November 13 – 19, 2023; and,
2. The INC agreed that ***Canada would host the fourth negotiating session (INC-4)***, scheduled to take place in Ottawa at the end of April 2024.

Please visit the [resources page](https://www.placespeak.com/en/topic/6765-canadas-voice-towards-an-ambitious-new-legally-binding-global-agreement-on-plastic-pollution-fall-2023/#/resources) to see short summaries of the first two sessions.

**What is a ‘zero-draft’?**

A zero draft usually presents the preliminary version of an agreement and is developed to facilitate and help focus the negotiations. In the context of INC negotiations, the zero-draft is being prepared by the Chair, with the support of the secretariat, and should reflect the different options for the agreement’s potential provisions and measures that have been discussed by member states and stakeholders in the first two INC sessions and in the [options paper](https://wedocs.unep.org/xmlui/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/42190/UNEP-PP-INC.2-4%20English.pdf?sequence=13&isAllowed=y) prepared by the secretariat in advance of INC-2. The zero-draft of the agreement will be available on the INC website in the six official languages of the United Nations no later than six weeks prior to INC-3 (i.e. by October 6, 2023).

**As Canada prepares its negotiating positions in advance of INC-3, we are seeking your feedback on what your priorities are for this global agreement. We also invite your views on how Canada can welcome the world to Ottawa in April 2024 for INC-4.**

**Help inform Canada’s voice!**

This survey represents Environment and Climate Change Canada’s third public consultation seeking input on the ambition and direction of this new global agreement. To date, we have received over 500 survey responses from participants across the country, who have all provided valuable feedback for our consideration.

**As we approach INC-3, we are once again asking for your input in anticipation of receiving the zero-draft text of the agreement.** This is a unique opportunity to share your views with Government of Canada decision-makers. Your answers to these questions will help inform Canada’s voice on the global stage towards the development of a new international legally binding agreement on plastic pollution.

**What is Canada doing to combat plastic pollution?**

Recognized as an international leader on this issue, Canada continues to champion the [Ocean Plastics Charter](https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/managing-reducing-waste/international-commitments/ocean-plastics-charter.html), launched during our 2018 G7 Presidency, and played an important role as a [co-facilitator](https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2022/02/canada-supports-a-new-legally-binding-global-agreement-on-plastics-as-un-meeting-kicks-off-in-kenya.html) of the plastic pollution negotiations during UNEA-5. More recently, Canada became an inaugural member of the [High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution by 2040](https://hactoendplasticpollution.org/) towards the negotiation of the new international legally binding agreement.

Our international efforts are part of [Canada’s comprehensive agenda to reduce plastic waste and pollution](https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/managing-reducing-waste/reduce-plastic-waste/canada-action.html) and transition to a circular economy. We are taking a resource-efficient, circular economy and lifecycle approach to end plastic pollution, aiming to keep plastics in the economy and out of the environment.

Ambition by governments alone will not be enough to deliver the meaningful reductions needed to end plastic pollution. Inclusive action by actors at all levels, including governments, industry, civil society, Indigenous Peoples, and youth, among others, is needed to help advance towards a more circular economy and keep the environment free from plastic pollution.

**Did you know?**

* The [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development](https://www.oecd.org/environment/plastics/) found that plastic production increased 230-fold from 1950 to 2019, and, in the absence of new policies, the amount of plastic waste produced globally (393 million tonnes in 2019) is on track to almost triple by 2060 – about half will end up in landfills, and less than a fifth recycled.
* Each year, globally, about 8 million tonnes of plastic waste enter the oceans from land. This is equivalent to dumping one garbage truck full of plastic into the ocean every minute.
* Canada is working with its partners to implement a [comprehensive approach](https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/managing-reducing-waste/reduce-plastic-waste.html) to reduce plastic pollution, improve how plastics are made, used and managed, and enable a circular plastics economy through a range of complementary solutions across the plastics lifecycle.
  + These solutions [include](https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/managing-reducing-waste/reduce-plastic-waste/canada-action.html): banning harmful single-use plastics, proposing minimum recycled content requirements for certain products, establishing new labelling rules, creating a federal plastics registry for producers to report on the plastics they place on the market, strengthening extended producer responsibility schemes, enabling innovations and sector-based solutions that support a systematic shift towards a circular economy, tackling plastic pollution such as the prevention and removal of abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear, and contributing to global action through participation and leadership in international initiatives.

**How to participate?**

To participate, **complete the survey below** [**via PlaceSpeak**](https://www.placespeak.com/en/topic/6765-canadas-voice-towards-an-ambitious-new-legally-binding-global-agreement-on-plastic-pollution-fall-2023/#/overview) **by September 17, 2023**. The survey will take approximately 30 minutes to complete. To help you with completing this consultation, a full list of the survey questions is available [here](https://www.placespeak.com/en/topic/6765-canadas-voice-towards-an-ambitious-new-legally-binding-global-agreement-on-plastic-pollution-fall-2023/#/resources). Thank you for contributing to Canada’s efforts on this global issue.

**Annex 1: Survey**

**Additional Identifying Question**

1. Are you submitting the answers to this survey on behalf of yourself as a private individual or on behalf of your organization/government/community? *Select one.*

On behalf of myself

On behalf of my organization/government/community

1. ***If you answered “on behalf of my organization/government/community” in question 1 then*** what is the name of your organization, government, or community:   
   Click or tap here to enter text.
2. ***If you answered “on behalf of my organization/government/community” in question 1 then*** which sector best represents your organization/government/community? *Select one.*

Academia

Provincial or territorial government

Municipal government

Indigenous government

Organization representing Indigenous communities

Industry or industry association

Local community

Non-governmental organization:

Other: Click or tap here to enter text.

Prefer not to say

1. ***If you answered “industry or industry association” in question 3 then*** indicate which sector best represents your industry or industry association? *Select one.*

Agriculture

Automotive (vehicle parts and components, excluding tire wear)

Construction

Electrical and electronic equipment

Fishing and aquaculture

Manufacturing

Plastic packaging

Textiles

Transportation, including shipping

Other: Click or tap here to enter text.

**Priorities for the Agreement**

1. The zero-draft will cover a broad range of potential options for the agreement. Going into INC-3 negotiations, which potential measures do you believe should be the highest priority for Canada?

*Rank the following options in order of importance, with one being the most important.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Choose an item. | Measures to eliminate or restrict unnecessary, avoidable or problematic plastic products and polymers and chemicals of concern (e.g. plastic products, polymers, or chemicals and additives in plastics that pose a risk to environmental or human health, or make it difficult to recycle) to reduce the amount entering the market and prevent pollution |
| Choose an item. | Measures to reduce the supply of primary plastics (i.e. virgin plastics not made of recycled materials) |
| Choose an item. | Measures to enable sustainable consumption and production and support circular systems to reduce waste in the first place and recirculate the value of needed plastics in the economy (e.g. through reuse, refill, repair, and recycling) |
| Choose an item. | Measures to increase the collection, sorting and environmentally sound end-of-life management of plastics |
| Choose an item. | Measures to reduce the release of plastic pollution, including microplastics, to the environment across all stages of the plastics lifecycle (manufacturing, transportation, consumption, disposal) |
| Choose an item. | Measures to support environmentally sound clean-up of existing plastic pollution |

**Potential Options of the Agreement**

This section identifies potential options for the agreement across the plastics lifecycle, based on discussions at the first two negotiating sessions and the [options paper](https://wedocs.unep.org/xmlui/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/42190/UNEP-PP-INC.2-4%20English.pdf?sequence=13&isAllowed=y) prepared by the secretariat.

1. Should the agreement include measures to phase out and/or reduce the supply of, demand for and use of primary plastics (i.e. virgin plastics not made with recycled materials)? *Select one.*

Yes

No

I’m not sure

1. ***If you answered yes to question 6 then*** what measures should the agreement include to phase out and/or reduce the supply of, demand for and use of primary plastics? *Rank the following options in order of importance, with one being the most important.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Choose an item. | Create global targets to influence plastic production |
| Choose an item. | Establish national targets to influence plastic production |
| Choose an item. | Restrict primary plastic production (e.g. through a cap or limit of primary plastics in certain applications or products) |
| Choose an item. | Set market-based measures such as licenses, permits, taxes, fees or incentives to reduce primary plastic production |
| Choose an item. | Improve how plastics are made to extend their life and keep them in the economy (e.g. standards or criteria to increase reuse, repair, remanufacture, refurbishment and recycling) |
| Choose an item. | Set recycled content standards to increase the supply, demand and use of recycled (secondary) plastics |

1. Should the agreement include measures to ban, phase-out and/or reduce unnecessary, avoidable and problematic plastic products (i.e. certain single-use plastic products) and polymers and chemicals of concern (i.e. certain additives)? *Select one.*

Yes

No

I’m not sure

1. ***If you answered yes to question 8 then*** what potential criteria should be considered to identify unnecessary, avoidable and problematic plastic products and polymers and chemicals of concern? *Select all that apply.*

Commonly found in the environment

Harmful or pose a risk to the environment

Harmful or pose a risk to human health

Are hard to reuse or recycle (i.e. impede circularity)

Viable, safe and environmentally friendly alternatives or substitutes are available

Other: Click or tap here to enter text.

1. What measures should the agreement include to strengthen waste management, by improving the collection, sorting, management, disposal and recycling of plastic waste? *Rank the following options in order of importance, with one being the most important.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Choose an item. | Requirements to establish and implement measures to ensure the environmentally sound collection, sorting, management, disposal and recycling of plastic waste |
| Choose an item. | Set a target for reducing plastic waste generation and/or disposal |
| Choose an item. | Develop guidance and tools on best practices and best available technologies |
| Choose an item. | Promote research and innovation to improve waste management and recycling systems |
| Choose an item. | Prohibit dangerous practices such as illegal dumping or open uncontrolled burning |
| Choose an item. | Establish and/or enhance extended producer responsibility programs |

1. What measures should the agreement include to enable a circular plastics economy (e.g. to extend the life of plastics and encourage reduce, reuse, repair, refurbishment, remanufacture and recycling)? *Rank the following options in order of importance, with one being the most important.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Choose an item. | Establish circularity criteria and guidance for design and production of plastic products |
| Choose an item. | Create labelling rules, standards and/or certifications |
| Choose an item. | Set a recycled content requirement for plastic products |
| Choose an item. | Establish a central data exchange repository or registry for the plastics put on the market |
| Choose an item. | Establish global targets for reduction, reuse, and/or recycling of plastics |
| Choose an item. | Establish national targets for reduction, reuse, and/or recycling of plastics |
| Choose an item. | Encourage the reduction and reuse of plastic products through the use of different mechanisms such as fees, tariffs or tax incentives, extended producer responsibility programs, deposit refund schemes or product take-back initiatives |
| Choose an item. | Foster innovation and research for safe and environmentally friendly alternatives and substitutes |

1. What measures should the agreement include to reduce and remove plastic pollution, including microplastics in the environment from all sources (e.g. including from abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear)? *Select all that apply.*

Requirements to establish and implement measures to eliminate or significantly reduce the releases of plastic, including microplastics, to water, soil and air

Develop criteria and/or guidelines on best available techniques/technologies and best environmental practices for targeted sources and leakage points, including identifying hotspots

Develop criteria and/or guidelines on best available techniques/technologies and best environmental practices for the environmentally sound capture and removal of plastic pollution

I don’t think the agreement should include measures to reduce and remove plastic pollution in the environment.

Other: Click or tap here to enter text.

1. Should the agreement establish a science and technical body to advance plastics research and monitoring, measure and report on trends, further innovations, and inform decision-making? *Select one.*

Yes

No

I’m not sure

**Tell us more!**

1. Do you have any additional views or information you wish to share? *(Please refrain from using personal identifying information)*

Click or tap here to enter text.