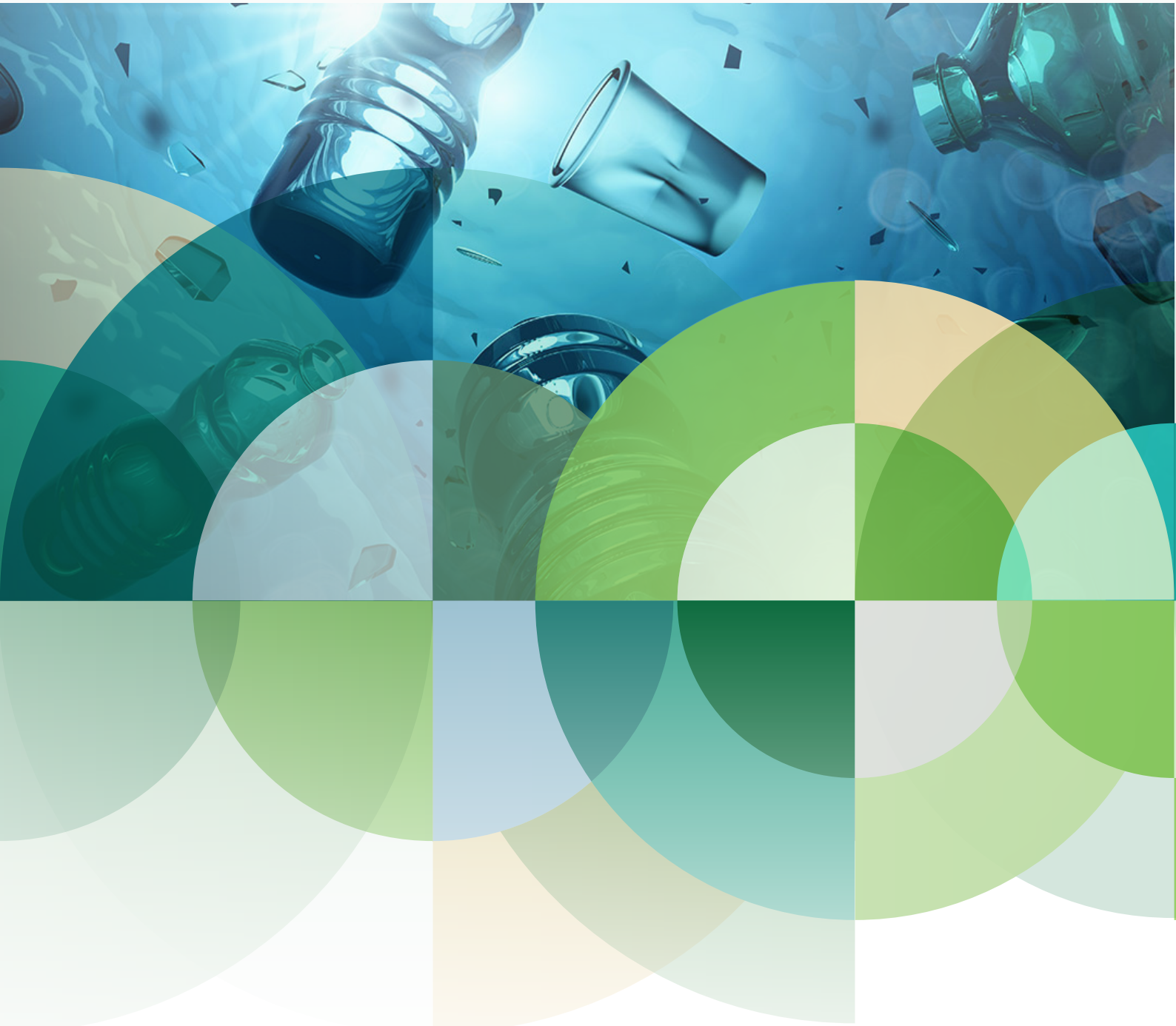
BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

Environment Ministers' commitments on plastics

National-level visions, actions and plans announced at the 2022 OECD Council at Ministerial Level (MCM)

June 2022



Note from the Secretariat

In the Declaration on a Resilient and Healthy Environment for All, adopted at the Environment Ministerial meeting on 30-31 March 2022, Ministers committed to:

"Strive to announce at the 2022 OECD Council at the Ministerial Level (MCM) national-level visions, actions, or plans, that could include:

a. strengthening domestic policies and fostering international cooperation, working towards the prevention, reduction and elimination of all plastic pollution in the environment;

b. encouraging the sustainable design of plastic products that are reusable, repairable, recyclable or, where viable alternatives do not exist, recoverable and, where feasible, do not contain substances that are harmful to human health and the environment;

c. promoting sustainable production and consumption, and circularity of plastics, stimulating research, technological and social innovation in materials science, finance, business models and behavioural change among citizens;

d. enhancing financing and circularity including, as appropriate, by strengthening extended producer responsibility;

e. enhancing plastic waste prevention, environmentally sound waste management and clean-up activities."

This note brings together the commitments submitted by 30 countries. These are available on the Environment Ministerial website, along with short videos of selected Ministers describing their commitments.

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Environment Ministers' commitments on plastics

AUSTRALIA

1. Plastic pollution is a major environmental issue. Domestically, Australia is taking unprecedented action to manage plastic pollution and build a circular economy for plastics. This includes ambitious waste reduction and resource reuse targets to 2030 under Australia's National Waste Policy Action Plan. Our National Plastics Plan includes actions to reduce plastic waste and increase recycling rates, find alternatives to plastics and reduce the amount of plastic impacting our environment, including in our oceans and waterways.

2. We are also the first country in the world to introduce a ban on the exports of certain wastes – requiring instead that recovered resources be processed onshore before they can be exported for remanufacture. Australia is funding the clean-up of ghost nets and plastic litter along northern Australia's remote coastline to improve the health of our ocean, reduce threats to our marine life and support in employment remote areas through Indigenous ranger programs. Australia is also helping to build regional capacity to prevent marine pollution and litter.

3. Since the Plastic Plan's release:

- Australia's Environment Ministers agreed on 8 problematic and unnecessary single-use plastic products for industry to phase out nationally by 2025 (or sooner in some cases).
- We are supporting the Australian Packaging Targets to ensure that all packaging on Australian products is recyclable, reusable or compostable and that 70 per cent of our plastic packaging is recycled or composted by 2025.
- We are also rapidly building the infrastructure to recycle more - and different kinds of waste into quality feedstock for remanufacturing, including advanced and innovative recycling technologies targeting hard-to-recycle plastics, and recycling solutions for regional Australia.
- We worked with countries at the resumed fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly meeting to launch negotiations for a new global instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

AUSTRIA

4. In order to meet the enormous challenges and considering the numerous causes for the release of plastics in the environment, many different activities are needed. It is our goal to extend the useful life of products and to increase reuse and recycling of waste products to reduce the environmental impact of plastic products. Sustainable product design plays a key role in this context.

5. The landfill ban on waste with a total organic carbon content of more than 5% de facto stipulates the recovery of all plastic waste since 2004. About 30% of the domestic plastic demand is consumed for packaging, and thus used only for a short time. Therefore, packaging materials in particular should be limited to the necessary extent and kept in circulation for as long as possible.

6. With regard to packaging, Austria has set itself the following goals:

- by 2025, compared to 2018, a reduction of 20% in the amount of single-use plastic packaging placed on the market should be achieved, and
- the quota of reusable beverage containers placed on the market in Austria is increased to at least 25% by 2025 and to at least 30% by 2030.

7. Since 1 January 2020, the placing on the market of plastic carrier bags has been banned in Austria. From 1 January 2025, a deposit is to be charged for single-use beverage containers made of plastic or metal. From 1 January 2030, plastic packaging may only be placed on the market if it can be reused or recycled.

8. In order to increase the use of recycled plastics and to contribute to a more sustainable use of plastics, separate collection of plastic waste, binding recycling quotas and minimum recycled content in new products are required. Extended producer responsibility and eco-modulation also play a central role to achieve a more sustainable use of plastics.

9. A Circular Economy Strategy and a new Waste Prevention Programme are currently being elaborated in Austria. Plastic is a central theme in both documents, and the planned measures will reduce the environmental pollution.

BULGARIA

10. Bulgaria is fully committed to implement and fulfill policies and priorities on reducing plastic pollution as the main part of the transition to circular economy.

11. We are committed to protect the environment from plastic pollution whilst fostering growth and innovation, turning a challenge into a positive agenda for the future. There is a strong business case for transforming the way products are designed, produced, used, and recycled and by taking the lead in this transition, we will create new investment opportunities and jobs. Under the new plans, all plastic packaging will be recyclable by 2030, the consumption of single-use plastics will be reduced and the intentional use of microplastics will be restricted.

12. In 2019, Bulgaria has introduced a new legislation on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment on a national level. The provisions aim to prevent and reduce the impact on the environment of certain plastic products and to promote a transition to a circular economy by introducing a mix of measures tailored to the products covered by the legislation, including a ban on single-use plastic products whenever alternatives are available.

13. The plastic products that are banned include:

- cutlery (forks, knives, spoons, chopsticks);
- plates;
- straws;
- cotton bud sticks;
- beverage stirrers;
- sticks to be attached to and to support balloons;
- food containers made of expanded polystyrene;

- products made from oxo-degradable plastic.

14. The national policy incorporates the 'polluter pays' principle. Producers have to cover the costs of:

- waste management clean-up;
- data-gathering; as well as
- awareness raising for the following products:
  - food and beverage containers,
  - bottles,
  - cups,
  - packets and wrappers,
  - light-weight carrier bags, and
  - tobacco products with filters.

CANADA

15. Canada remains committed to tackling the pressing issue of plastic pollution through ambitious and complementary actions spanning the plastics lifecycle that support sustainable consumption and production and address plastics in the environment.

16. The Government of Canada is implementing a comprehensive and circular economy approach to reduce plastic waste, increase plastics value recovery, and tackle plastic pollution with a goal of zero plastic waste by 2030. This includes: proposing bans on harmful or problematic single use plastics; proposing minimum recycled content requirements for certain plastic items; investing nearly $19 million in innovative solutions by Canadian small and medium sized enterprises; supporting communities to raise awareness and prevent and remove plastic pollution; reducing plastic waste in government operations and procuring sustainable materials; developing a strategy for improved value retention processes (e.g. through reuse, repair, remanufacture and refurbishment); advancing science across the plastics value chain to inform solutions; and working with industry to prevent and retrieve lost fishing gear and find circular solutions across sectors.

17. The Government of Canada is also working with provinces and territories to implement the Canada-wide Strategy on Zero Plastic Waste and associated Action Plan. This includes efforts to facilitate consistent extended producer responsibility programs, assess infrastructure needs, develop a roadmap for single use and disposable plastics, and create guidance to inform consumer behaviours and target plastic pollution sources and pathways.

18. Internationally, Canada is contributing to global efforts that advance science, policy and action, as well as support the transition towards a circular plastics economy. Building on our ongoing efforts to champion the Ocean Plastics Charter, Canada will continue to demonstrate leadership and work with all countries and partners towards developing an ambitious international legally binding agreement to end plastic pollution.

CHILE

19. Chile's recent developments include regulations, laws and non-binding instruments.

20. Regulations and laws:

- Decree 12, published in 2021, establishing recollection, recovery goals and other obligations related to packaging. This regulation is presented on the framework of the implementation of

Chile's EPR Law, with the goal of 45% recovery and recollection of plastic packaging by 2034 in households: and 55% in other establishments different than households.

- Law N°21.100, approved in 2018, banning the delivery of plastic bags in retail establishments.
- Supreme Decree N°64/2021, approving rules and conditions for treatment and final disposal of waste originated from aquaculture activities, available since 2021.
- Law N°21.368, that regulates the delivery of single use plastics and plastic bottles, banning the delivery of plastic products in food businesses, and establishing conditions on the composition of plastic bottles to improve their returnability. The new regulation was approved in 2021.

21. Non – binding policies and voluntary commitments:

- Roadmap for a Circular Chile by 2040 , aiming to accelerate a circular economy transition, and establishing recyclability goals for municipal solid waste, including plastics, with a 65% goal by 2040.
- Chilean Plastic Pact, launched in 2018, consisting of a public private partnership to rethink and redesign the future of plastics, through the establishment of different goals.
- National Strategy for Marine Waste and Microplastics Management, launched in 2021, with the objective for a sustainable plastic waste management throughout their life cycle, preventing and reducing the discharge of plastic waste in aquatic ecosystems and reducing environmental impacts of certain activities.

22. Finally, we expect to provide a positive contribution to the negotiation of the new international legally binding agreement on plastic pollution, which will start this year, as the main international effort in this matter. This commitment is reflected in the co-sponsorship of the resolution of UNEA 5.2 with the mandate to start the negotiations as well as during the negotiation of this instrument.

COLOMBIA

23. In Colombia, we are moving forward an articulated work between government, academia, public institutions, non-governmental organizations and productive sectors to implement public policies, regulations and technical instruments. The National Plan for the Sustainable Management of Single-Use Plastics was launched, which works on incorporating eco-design in the manufacture of plastic products based on life-cycle analysis, utilization processes, strengthening of recycling production chains and responsible consumption. We are implementing the National Circular Economy Strategy - ENEC, which promotes the productive transformation of industrial and agricultural systems and sustainable cities, based on circularity, technological innovation, and collaboration in new business models. It also disseminates the color code for the presentation of waste in bags or other containers, within the framework of the waste recovery programs of the public sanitation service. The principle of extended producer responsibility is strengthened through a resolution for paper, cardboard, plastic, glass and metal packaging waste.

24. Work has been enhanced with international bodies in programs such as the Pacific Alliance, the Marine Garbage and Microplastics Group in Latin America and the Caribbean, the negotiation in UNEA 5.2, where the adoption of the resolution "End Plastic Pollution" was achieved, the Regional Circular Economy Coalition of Latin America and the Caribbean and the Global Commitment to the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment.

25. The lines of action advanced in our country for single-use plastics are: the gradual substitution of single-use product materials, the strengthening of the recycling chain, the promotion of reusable products in commercial establishments, the environmental management of food homes and the prohibition of entry and use in the areas of Natural Parks.

CROATIA

26. Through the Waste Management Act adopted in July 2021 (Official Gazette 84/21), the Republic of Croatia has banned placing on the market of lightweight plastic bags from 1 January 2022, with the exemption of very lightweight plastic bags for loose food used for hygiene purposes or when their use helps prevent food waste.

27. With the mentioned Act, Croatia has assumed obligations prescribed by Directive (EU) 2019/904 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment, including the ban on the placing on the market of the single-use plastic products listed in this Directive and of products made from oxo-degradable plastic. The Waste Management Act further prescribes financial incentives and grants for projects and activities aimed at circular economy, e.g. achieving the objectives of reducing the use of plastic bags, the use of replacement materials for products that come into contact with food instead of single-use plastics, co-financing of the construction of waste recycling facilities, waste sorting facilities and composting facilities for the achievement of highly efficient recycling, promotion of high quality of recycling of separately collected waste, in particular packaging materials and meeting the necessary quality standards for specific purposes of recycling products, promotion of the preparation for re-use, development of secondary raw materials markets.

28. In the Republic of Croatia, extended producer responsibility is applied to all plastic packaging waste.

29. Following the adoption of the UNEA5.2 resolution, Croatia will participate in the upcoming meeting of the ad-hoc open-ended working group that will prepare the work of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an internationally binding instrument on plastic pollution, in Dakar, Senegal from 30 May to 1 June 2022.

CZECH REPUBLIC

30. The Czech Republic as a member of the European Union is obliged to fulfil the commitments that originate in this membership in the first place. In the national waste action plan (POH) which is periodically endorsed for a ten-year period, the waste hierarchy is the key element. It includes strategic planning of treatment of general waste, packages and end-of-life products. The main accent is being put on waste prevention on both legislation and waste management levels.

31. The most important document in terms of circularity and environmentally sound management of waste is the Circular Czechia 2040, which has been adopted at the end of 2021 and sets the strategic framework for the upcoming two decades. It reflects the necessity of advocacy of circular economy principles, as the key priorities for the Czech Republic in environmental management. The document is divided into 10 sections. Its strategic ambitions include waste prevention, and forming a long-term resilient economy capable to withstand challenges brought by climate change, economic distortions or future pandemics. It emphasizes the importance of economic competitiveness and research.

32. Another important document that is currently being transposed from European to Czech Republic's national legislation is the Single Use Plastics Directive (SUP), which aims to ban the manufacturing, trade and usage of selected plastic products. It will also guarantee a specified content of recycled plastics that all the plastics products on the market need to have which should help to reduce the dependence on virgin or primary plastic materials.

33. The Czech Republic actively participates in long-term activities and commitments at the international level and is currently taking part in the preparatory process of the international treaty on plastic pollution.

DENMARK

34. Denmark aims at reducing the use of plastics, improving reuse of plastics and increasing the share of plastic waste being recycled. Denmark has an objective of sorting out 80% of all plastic waste from incineration in 2030 compared to 2020. From 2022, 60% of all household waste must be recycled. To reach these goals, Denmark has taken several steps.

35. One of the recent steps is to implement harmonized sorting and separation of waste across all municipalities, which contributes to cleaner plastic waste and allows for more recycling. Denmark moreover has a well-functioning deposit and return system for drink packaging, which ensures high quality recycling and less plastic waste in nature. To stipulate that plastic bottles contain recycled material, Denmark is required to use 25% recycled material in new plastic bottles in 2025 and 30% in 2030.

36. An extended producer responsibility scheme for packaging is currently being implemented with the ambition to ensure economic incentives to design better packaging that more easily can be reused or recycled and to ensure a proper handling after end of use. Furthermore, Denmark is in the process of implementing the Single Use Plastics Directive. Having already banned a number of single use products, work is currently ongoing for the implementation of the extended producer responsibility scheme that also includes litter.

37. To reduce the use of plastic, Denmark has banned free carrier bags provided by shops and has raised the levies on single-use plastics. Furthermore, Denmark has established voluntary public-private partnerships around the use of plastic in four main sectors: agriculture, construction, food services and retail. Goals are set for each of the sectors:

- *Agriculture:* works towards sorting out 50% of the sectors' plastic use for recycling in 2025, and 80% in 2030.
- *Construction:* aims at 25% plastic recycling in 2025, and 75% in 2030.
- *Food services:* objective of halving plastic waste from take away packaging by 2026
- *Retail:* has set a goal that all packaging should be reusable or recyclable, and that all packaging must contain at least 30% recycled plastic in 2025.

38. Lastly, Denmark has taken an active part in the initiation of The European Plastics Pact. In this pact, countries and businesses are leading the way with clear and ambitious goals focusing on design, responsible use, recycling capacity and the use of recycled content.

EUROPEAN UNION

39. The European Union (EU) is taking action to tackle plastic pollution and marine litter to accelerate the transition to a circular and resource-efficient plastics economy. Specific rules and targets apply to certain areas, including single-use plastics, plastic packaging, microplastics, and soon bio-based, biodegradable and compostable plastics.

40. The EU's Plastics Strategy, as part of the Circular Economy Action Plan, outlines specific actions in detail. The EU policy on plastics aims to protect the environment and human health by reducing marine litter, greenhouse gas emissions and our dependence on imported fossil fuels. The EU also aims to:

- transform the way plastic products are designed, produced, used and recycled in the EU;
- transition to a sustainable plastics economy;
- support more sustainable and safer consumption and production patterns for plastics;
- create new opportunities for innovation, competitiveness and jobs;
- spur change and set an example at the global level.

41. Some of the EU's specific policies on plastics are:

- Bio-based, biodegradable and compostable plastics: the EU will address the sourcing, labelling and use of bio-based plastics, and the use of biodegradable and compostable plastics.
- Global action on plastics: the EU is paving the way for a global agreement on plastics, to support the global shift towards a circular economy.
- Microplastics: the EU aims to address the growing volume of microplastics in the environment.
- Plastic bags: EU rules on plastic bags to address the unsustainable consumption and use of lightweight plastic carrier bags.
- Plastic packaging: EU rules on packaging and packaging waste cover all materials, including plastics.
- Plastic waste shipments: EU rules on importing and exporting plastic waste.
- Single-use plastics: EU rules on single-use plastics (SUPs) to fight against marine litter and plastic pollution.

42. Some of the latest EU activities to tackle plastics pollution:

- Single-use plastics new rules *(February 2022):* the Commission has adopted new rules specifying how EU Member States must calculate and report on the reduction in their consumption of single-use plastic food containers and beverage cups under the Single-use Plastics Directive.
- Microplastics Public Consultation.

FINLAND

43. Finland has a "Plastics Roadmap for Finland" programme, first introduced in 2018 and revised in 2022, that presents quantitative goals and concrete measures to boost a circular plastics economy. It also establishes a cooperation network among the key players in the field. Given the complexity of the plastic uses, we have found it very important to engage both private sector and civil society in designing national plastic policies and actions.

44. The programme aims to ensure the breakthrough of a circular plastics economy in Finland by 2030, but it also supports the achievement of the goals set out in the EU and national legislation, expanding them where necessary, as well as supports Finland's participation in the UNEA based negotiations for a global plastics treaty.

45. The programme's objective to reducing littering and avoiding unnecessary consumption has been advanced in particular through voluntary agreements between the government and industry sectors. Agreements on reducing the use of Plastic Carrier Bags and a Construction Plastics, as well as on reducing the use of single use plastics that goes beyond the requirements set in EU legislation have been developed. Given the high quality of our tap water, an agreement with cities, hotels and restaurants to commit to prioritising tap water instead of bottled water has been introduced, even if we have a very well functioning deposit and return system for plastic bottles. Within the programme, chemical plastic recovery sites in Finland for the plastics that cannot be recycled otherwise are developed, and research and development into alternative solutions to plastics are endorsed. The key implementers and cooperation partners for each set of measures have been identified and the work continues. A general status check and review of the work undertaken will be made at the end of 2025.

FRANCE

46. Plastic pollution is a societal and environmental issue, as is reflected in the recently adopted public policies designed to fight plastic pollution at source, with a particular focus on single-use plastic packaging, which constitutes two thirds of plastic waste.

47. In addition to specific bans on single-use plastics (e.g. primary packaging of fruit and vegetables), France's approach is based on the "3Rs" (reduce, reuse, recycle), with the ultimate aim of phasing out the sale of single-use plastic packaging by 2040.

48. 3Rs targets are set every five years for single-use plastic packaging, with the first targets for 2025 established by decree in 2021:

- a 20% reduction in the tonnage brought to market, half of which must be achieved through reuse, with a particular focus on developing bulk purchasing;
- a target of a 100% reduction unnecessary single-use plastic packaging;
- a target that single-use plastic packaging should be recyclable at scale and in practice, and not contain hazardous substances (problematic plastics);
- a target of 100% recycling.

49. In order to achieve these short- and long-term goals, a national 3Rs strategy for single-use plastic packaging has been developed in 2022 that includes an overview to 2040 and an action plan to achieve the 3Rs targets in 2025.

50. In order to take into account the specificities of each sector, professional federations are being encouraged to develop their own roadmaps and take ownership of these public policy objectives, with the help of a dedicated public fund. More generally, funding measures (900 million euros) are being introduced to promote eco-design, reuse, as well as capacity building for the collection, sorting and recycling of plastics.

51. At the international level, France has joined the "New Plastics Economy Global Commitment", an initiative of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Program. In addition, the French Development Agency, together with the European Investment Bank and KfW, launched the "Clean Oceans Initiative" in 2018, which helped provide USD 2 million in financing for projects to reduce plastic pollution in the oceans.

GERMANY

52. Plastics use many resources during the production stage. When not properly disposed of or recycled, they damage the environment, oceans and climate. Even when recycled in incineration plants, harmful emissions are still released. Germany is therefore committed at national, European and international level to avoiding plastic waste and to a rapid and effective transition to a circular economy.

53. At the last UN Environment Assembly, the international community decided to fast track a binding and ambitious agreement to combat harmful plastics and plastic waste. This is an historic breakthrough. This agreement will span the entire life cycle of plastics. This includes preventing plastic waste, as well as stopping microplastics from entering the environment and oceans.

54. We also want to make progress on oceans and plastic waste during our G7 presidency this year. An ocean deal will provide intensive support for work on the UN Treaty on Plastic Pollution and encourage immediate action.

55. A key element of circular economy is more sustainable production – this starts with products designed to preserve value. Products must be recyclable and designed to be durable as possible so they can be used more than once. We are opposed to single use, even in the case of alternative materials.

56. Reusable packaging is intended to avoid unnecessary single-use products, for example for beverages. Germany is committed to product-specific minimum quotas of recycled content for suitable packaging and other products. We will also push for an ambitious revision of the European Packaging Directive. Quality standards for recyclables aim to create a level playing field for recycled plastic throughout Europe. We want to shift EU-wide plastic charges to manufacturers and distributors. In addition, landfilling of untreated waste must be banned. The declared goal of the German government is to prevent waste even more effectively in the future – through legally binding targets and eco-friendly reusable, return and deposit systems.

57. To promote circular economy, we are developing a national circular economy strategy. Binding targets to reduce our resource consumption will also play a role. The aim is to transfer the idea of circular economy to the economy as a whole.

GREECE

58. Within the framework of Greece's new national policy, legislation and planning on waste, recycling and circular economy (National Waste Prevention Plan, National Waste Management Plan and National Circular Economy Action Plan) several provisions and measures on plastics have been introduced.

59. Beginning with Law 4736/2020, Greece transposed the EU Single Use Plastic (SUP) Directive 2019/904 in national legislation in October 2020, earlier than the date of entry into force of the Directive (July 2021) due to the importance given to the reduction of plastic waste generated, at source, and to the promotion of more sustainable and reusable materials. The Law aims to prevent and reduce plastic pollution especially in the sea, to address plastic marine litter and to promote the transition to a circular economy. Certain measures and targets at national level in line with the overall objectives of the EU's waste policy are set, including specific national reduction targets for the consumption of SUP beverage cups and food containers (at least by 30% and 60%, by 2024 and 2026 respectively, compared to 2022), and the promotion of reusable types of the aforementioned products.

60. In addition, extended producer responsibility schemes are established for certain categories of SUP products and fishing gear containing plastic as well. Moreover, a nationwide Deposit Refund Scheme for plastic beverage packaging will be implemented from January 5th 2023 by beverage packaging producers.

61. Another important initiative introduced with Law 4819/2021, transposing EU Directive 2018/851, is the advanced fee eco-modulation for plastics. Producer Responsibility Organization (PROs) fees are to be modulated by taking into account durability, reparability, re-usability, recyclability, recycled content and the presence of hazardous substances. There are criteria for fee modulation regarding plastic packaging with increasing fees for coloured PET bottles, multilayer plastic packaging, composite packaging, PVC and expanded polystyrene packaging, and PVC labels.

62. Greece has environmental fees in place for plastic carrier bags (as of 2018) (excluding biodegradable plastic bags), SUP beverage cups and food containers as of 2022 and for packaging products containing PVC as of 2022, paid by the consumers, in order to promote the use of reusable and easily recyclable alternatives.

63. Aiming at fostering international cooperation on plastic, the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy joins the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment, launched in October 2018 by the Ellen

MacArthur Foundation and the UN Environment Programme, supporting the common vision of a circular economy for plastic.

HUNGARY

64. In 2020, the Hungarian Government announced its Climate and Nature Protection Action Plan, which aims to ban the placing on the market of certain single-use plastics (in particular plastic cups, cutlery, plates, straws and shopping bags) and to ensure the return of glass and plastic bottles and metal cans.

65. Hungary has implemented the SUP Directive by the 3 July 2021 deadline: based on the legislative framework adopted in 2020, two government decrees on single-use plastic products were published in 2021. In addition to the SUP Directive, Hungary also prohibits the placing on the market of the following products:

- lightweight plastic carrier bags with a wall thickness of between 15 and 50 microns (except those made of biodegradable plastic) from 1 July 2021;
- single-use cups for beverages made of plastic (which includes paper cups with plastic coating) from 1 January 2023.

66. In order to reduce the consumption of plastic carrier bags, the environmental product fee has also increased significantly for plastic carrier bags not banned from 1 July 2021.

67. The taking back of single-use plastic beverage bottles (with glass beverage bottles and metal beverage cans) will be ensured through a deposit refund system (DRS), from 1 January 2024. The planned DRS also includes the return of refillable beverage packaging. The legal framework and the minimum requirements have been laid down in corresponding acts. The detailed rules of the DRS are being developed, which will contain the range of products to be included in the DRS based on the size and the content of beverage packaging. The application of the DRS will be mandatory for the producers and distributors concerned.

68. The Hungarian extended producer responsibility system is currently under reform, which will entail the detailed rules of the requirements of the SUP Directive.

ICELAND

69. In 2020, Iceland adopted a policy for the management of plastic waste which emphasizes three main goals – 1) reduce plastics use in all sectors, 2) increase recycling of plastics and 3) reduction of marine plastic pollution. This policy was developed under the auspices of the Ministry for the Environment in close collaboration with stakeholders from the private sector, NGOs and relevant institutions.

70. Eight actions to reduce plastics use were defined and five of those have already been successfully carried out. A law banning the use of single-use plastic shopping bags was passed in 2018, resulting in the immediate reduction of 50% in the number of plastic shopping bags per capita. A total ban on the marketing and sales of a wide range of single use plastic consumer products took effect in 2021. Other actions include e.g. funding for research on plastics-free solutions, collaboration with the private sector, awards for excellence in plastics-free solutions and raising awareness among the general public of excessive single-use plastics use. Efforts to increase recycling of plastics include mandatory country-wide coordination in waste sorting and checking the feasibility of charging recycling fees for a wider range of plastic products.

71. Iceland‘s economy depends to a large extent on the health of the surrounding ocean and therefore, great emphasis is put on curbing marine plastic pollution. Among the actions defined to reach this goal are

improved wastewater treatment, stricter regulations on microplastics in cosmetics, sustainable urban drainage, focused beach clean-up and increased collaboration with the fishing industry to recover old or lost fishing gear.

72. The Nordic countries put heavy emphasis on curbing plastic pollution. The Nordic Ministers for the Environment and Climate have strongly supported efforts to create a new global agreement to prevent plastic pollution under the banner of the Nordic Council of Ministers.

ISRAEL

73. Israel is putting plastic waste reduction very high on the agenda. Israel understands that a broad set of policy tools is needed to address plastic throughout the value chain, so we are promoting an array of measures, with an emphasis on different economic tools:

- During the past year, Israel expanded its deposit scheme for all beverage plastic bottles, to encourage recycling;
- Beginning Nov. 2021, a tax was levied on single-use plastic utensils: 11 NIS/kg on manufacture or import, thus doubling the price to consumer. Israel's per capita consumption of these items is 7.5 kg/person/year, while the EU average is 1.5 kg/person/year. The new tax caused a 40% reduction in consumption;
- A green procurement Government Resolution was passed that stops the purchase of single-use plastic procurement among all government departments;
- We deploy public awareness campaigns;
- We have published guidelines for the design of recyclable packaging.

74. Israel is supporting the development of an internationally legal-binding tool to address plastic pollution.

75. The OECD work needs to focus on the impact of various EPR schemes on the redesign of plastic products to encourage their reduction and recycling. Specifically, we need to create policy tools to reduce the amounts of certain types of plastic polymers that disturb recycling processes or harm the environment, such as PVC, oxo-degradable plastics, and even biodegradable plastics. Moreover, we need to expand our understanding of the potential health and environmental impacts of micro-plastics as well as the possible policies required to prevent their use. In addition, while there is much focus on policy instruments directed at single-use plastics, there are not many policy instruments directed at other plastic streams, especially plastics used in construction, furniture, and textile.

ITALY

76. Italy is convinced that national policies and international co-operation are urgently needed to mitigate adverse environmental impacts all along the plastic value chain and is fully engaged at global, European and national level in the fight against plastic pollution, particularly in the marine environment.

77. 2. Italy joined the:

- "Stop Plastic Waste" Coalition (Climate Conference, Marrakech 2016);
- global campaign "Clean Seas" on marine litter;
- "Plastics Economy Global Commitment" (Ellen McArthur Foundation & UNEP);
- "European Plastic Pact" (spring 2019).

78. Italy supports the G7 and G20 plastic initiatives based on shared objectives to be implemented through national commitments and actions:

- The G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter (G20 Japan 2019) endorsed by the G20 Leaders at the Osaka Summit together with a common global vision to address plastic pollution: the 'Osaka Blue Ocean Vision'. The Vision signalled for the first time the international support for an overarching goal of "reducing additional pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050"); G20 countries committed themselves to implement and report on relevant solutions nationally as well as to enhance international cooperation and capacity building;
- during the 2021 G20 Italian Presidency, Italy worked closely with Japan and G20 Countries to publish the third report on the G20 Implementation framework, officially presented in Naples.

79. In light of the recent and historic resolution "End Plastic Pollution: Towards an internationally legally binding instrument" adopted at the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) in Nairobi to end plastic pollution and forge an international legally binding agreement by 2024, Italy underlines the pivotal role of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) that will start its work in 2022.

80. Italy encourages also continuing cooperation and support by OECD and Member Countries with UNEP and IRP (International Resources Panel) on plastic.

81. At national level:

- Italy banned since 2006 the traditional single-use plastic bags with greater environmental impact and recently prohibited the production of plastic cotton buds as well as cosmetic products containing micro-plastics;
- the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) allocates 2.1 billion € for circular economy and waste management, in order to foster efficiency and sustainability of the Italian system. It consists of two distinct investments: a) 1.5 billion € for the construction of new waste management plants and the modernization of existing ones; b) 0.6 million € for "flagship" initiatives in strategic industrial chains such as Plastic to improve mechanical and chemical recycling of plastic waste and the setup of "Plastic Hubs";
- the National Strategy on Circular Economy (Sep. 2021) and the National Waste Management Plan (expected June 2022; put to public consultation in March 2022 through SEA) include important elements about plastic;
- reflection is ongoing on the use of market-based instruments for waste (landfill tax, waste charges, …) and plastic (a non-recyclable mono-use plastics tax has been introduced in 2020, but its implementation postponed to 2023) in the frame of a general fiscal reform and of the removal within 2025 of EHS (environmentally harmful subsidies including FFS, fossil fuel subsidies);
- involvement of the private sector, stakeholders and NGOs, appears crucial; protocols have been signed e.g. with FederlegnoArredo (wood producers), Alliance of Italian Fishing Cooperatives and Marevivo (sea NGO), to promote the use of renewable packaging in the fish industry.

82. Italy warmly welcomes the OECD Global Plastic Outlook that can complement national efforts and serve as a roadmap basis towards net-zero plastics leakage by mid-century and a more circular material system for plastics all along the lifecycle.

JAPAN

83. We enacted the "Plastic Resource Circulation Act" this April, to facilitate the circulation of plastics across the entire life cycle of plastic products, from product design to waste disposal.

84. The UN Environment Assembly, which was organised from February to March this year, adopted a resolution to establish an intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC) to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. Japan has contributed to maintaining global momentum in the fight against marine plastic litter by advocating the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision to the world, starting with the G20 Summit in 2019. Japan will also actively contribute to the negotiations for the international legally binding instrument so that the work can be completed by the end of 2024.

85. Through J4CE (the public-private partnership between the government and Keidanren, Japan's largest business association), launched in March 2021, Japan will (1) hold the events aimed at business matching to promote networking, (2) hold public-private dialogues such as lectures and discussions on different themes to promote the circular economy, and (3) collect and disseminate advanced Japanese initiatives both in Japan and abroad.

KOREA

86. Korea has established a set of policy measures to tackle plastic pollution. Its main focus is to address the full lifecycle of plastics from their feedstock, production, distribution, consumption and recycling. The measures could be summarized into the following:

- Plastic Phase-out Plan (Dec. 2020): the plan aims to reduce plastic production and use at source and scale up the use of recycled content. It includes detailed and practical long-term measures to promote the use of alternative plastics ultimately to move towards a plastic-free society. Those measures include: i) increase the current level of plastics tax rate, ii) limit or ban the use of single-use plastics by their item types, iii) mandate the use of transparent PET bottles for beverage products, iv) mandate the use of recycled content, and v) promote the development of bioplastics technologies.
- Circular Economy Action Plan (Dec. 2021): the plan includes a full lifecycle approach to tackle plastic pollution. A total of 7 items for which their recycling should be promoted are listed in this plan. Plastics is one of those items and the plan has set the target of making 95% of all plastics remain in the cycle for reuse by 2050. The plan also includes strengthened standards for packaging materials to make sure they are easy-to-recycle from design stage. Other measures include: i) mandate public offices' purchase of products using recycled content, and ii) enhance labelling for the easy-to-recycle products.
- An Act to Promote the Transition to a Circular Economy: the Act is awaiting to be enacted. Once enacted, the Act will lay the legal basis for robust and consistent implementation of the above plans and measures. The National Assembly is discussing this Act, which will mandate that: i) policies for circular economy transition be developed and implemented, ii) evaluation on the progress of such implementation be conducted, and iii) support measures be provided for various stakeholders.

87. With such various policy experiences, Korea hopes to contribute to a stronger international solidarity built through the resolution titled "End Plastic Pollution: Towards an international legally binding instrument" adopted at UNEA 5.2 earlier this year.

LATVIA

88. To reduce plastic pollution and contribute to international efforts in this regard, Latvia has set policy directions and measures in its national planning documents, particularly, the Action Plan for the Transition to a Circular Economy 2020-2027 and the State Waste Management Plan 2021-2028.

89. By the Law on the Reduction of Consumption of Products Containing Plastic, which entered into force on 3 July 2021, we transposed requirements arising from the Directive (EU) 2019/904 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment. The Law contains several restrictions to place products containing plastic on the market, incl. obligation for the producer of informing of a consumer of the products subject to the requirement for the reduction of consumption and mandatory marking requirements. Starting from 2023 Latvia will introduce Extended Producer Responsibility scheme for tobacco products.

90. Beverage packaging deposit system in Latvia has been enacted since February 2022. Latvia has set specific targets for separate collection of plastic beverage bottles (with a capacity of up to 3 litters). It is expected that by 2025 77% of the beverage bottles placed on the market will be collected separately; and by 2029 - 90% of the bottles.

91. To support implementation of the State Waste Management Plan 2021-2028 an EU LIFE program co-financed project “Waste To Resources Latvia - boosting regional sustainability and circularity” was launched in 2021. The project aims to reduce the generation of waste (incl. plastic) and support circularity of materials and goods, among other solutions, promoting industrial symbiosis. We plan to boost research activities on the plastics and improve data and information flows on plastic packaging and plastic-containing products placed on the market and used by manufacturers and recyclers. Latvia plans to prepare a Roadmap for a Plastic Pollution Free Society in 2030.

92. As the Baltic Sea country, we will support activities to address water pollution by plastic, especially marine litter. By this Latvia will contribute to reduction of the global ocean pollution by plastic. Latvian Environmental Protection Fund will continue supporting environmental awareness raising activities, incl. a campaign “My Sea” which generates citizen monitoring data on coastal pollution by plastic.

LITHUANIA

93. Lithuanian Government is committed to minimize environmental effects of plastic not only by implementing requirements of EU directives, but also by stepping a bit forward:

- Lithuania is a member of European Plastics Pact, which brings together governments and frontrunners from across the whole value chain, who work together towards four goals aimed at design, responsible use, recycling capacity and the use of recycled content.
- Worldwide and European practices on combating unsustainable use of plastics are discussed between Lithuanian industry and ministries in intersectoral formats. That is how countrywide deposit-refund system for plastic bottles was introduced in cooperation of government, producers, importers and retailers. Nowadays the bottles collected in this system are being recycled back to beverage bottles. The producers already cooperate with scientists and recyclers in order to invent and implement the method of recycling colorful bottles back to bottles.
- The Ministry of Environment organizes countrywide clean-ups of forests, where every citizen is invited to join.

LUXEMBOURG

94. In December 2015, the European Commission adopted a European Union (EU) Action Plan for the Circular Economy, the so-called Circular Economy Package (CEP). This Action Plan sets out a series of concrete measures for better resource management, covering all phases of the life cycle (or rather utility) of products: from production (including design) to waste management and secondary raw materials, through to more responsible consumption. A key element of the Plan is the revision of Member States' waste legislation. The CEP has thus resulted in proposals to amend the Waste Framework Directive

2008/98/EC, which is the basis for the amended law of 21 March 2012 on waste management currently in force in Luxembourg, in addition to other key regulatory texts such as the law of 21 March 2017 on packaging and packaging waste.

95. The targets set at European level by the CEP are largely included in the national targets of the "Plan National de Gestion des Déchets et des Ressources" (PNGDR) validated in 2018 by the Luxembourg Government. This Plan aims at ambitious objectives in terms of waste reduction and recycling, but also of recovery and reuse of products and resources. It describes strategies and measures to substantially reduce the amount of waste produced at national level and provides the basis for a major revision of the waste legislation with the transposition of the European directives on the CEP and on single-use plastics into national law. This review of legislation is in its final stages with new waste law to be enacted in the coming weeks.

96. In fact, the major principles of sustainable waste and resource management are also reflected in the 2018-2023 government agreement of the current governing coalition, which includes "a detailed analysis of material, water and energy flows underlying Luxembourg's economic activities" and makes explicit reference to a "Null Offall Lëtzebuerg" ("Zero Waste Luxembourg") strategy. Consequently, in 2019, the Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development launched the "Null Offall Lëtzebuerg" initiative to collect ideas and suggestions from professional and economic actors, but also from citizens and representatives of civil society, with the aim of achieving and even exceeding the objectives set out in the PNGDR.

97. This "Null Offall Lëtzebuerg" strategy was adopted by the Government in April 2020. Its first purpose is to provide the methodological basis and a toolkit for transposing the European directives of the CEP and the Single Use Plastics Directive into a new national waste and resource management law - it thus provides a strategic framework for this new law to be enacted in the coming weeks. Secondly, it provides a broader vision and framework for responsible and sustainable resource and waste management in the future, with the aim of eliminating the notion of waste itself. It aims to support a paradigm shift from a waste vocabulary to resource management and to highlight the value and quality of the flows and stocks of objects and materials in everyday life. This is the context in which the actions currently being taken in Luxembourg to reduce the use of plastic products, and hence the waste they generate, should be seen.

98. The implementation of the "Null Offall Lëtzebuerg" strategy is a cross-cutting task and is done in a concerted and coordinated way between public and private actors involved in the different value chains, reflecting the holistic philosophy of the circular economy. The new national waste and resource management law is a strong and central part of the strategy, but it will need to be integrated into a broader context, including policies supporting innovation in other sectors such as industry, construction, trade, finance or agriculture. The involvement of citizens in this transition towards the circular economy is also a key element.

MEXICO

99. Mexico has committed to:

- Strengthening domestic policies and fostering international co-operation; working towards the prevention, reduction, and elimination of all plastic pollution; and promoting sustainable production and consumption patterns, including a circular economy of plastics, while stimulating research, technological and social innovation in materials science, finance, business models and behavioural change.

100. For instance, with the support of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC), the project "Transformation of recycling and solid waste management in North America" brings Mexico,

Canada, and the US together to accelerate the adoption of circular economy and sustainable management practices regarding materials (plastics and microplastics) in North America. It seeks to transform recycling and solid waste management, generating economic and environmental benefits for the region. This is expected to be achieved through state-of-the-art studies to better assess the opportunities for the recycling sector and secondary materials markets, and to integrate a descriptive overview of relevant legal and policy frameworks. It will also contribute to identifying emerging technologies and novel materials, and will support collaboration and knowledge-sharing among different stakeholders through networking activities (http://www.cec.org/transforming-recycling-and-solid-waste-management-in-north-america/).

- Enhancing plastic waste prevention, environmentally sound waste management and clean-up activities.

101. Equally supported by the CEC, the ongoing project "Reduction of marine litter" aims to prevent and reduce land-based marine litter by carrying out exhibitions, training, and outreach activities around waste routes from inland settlements to the marine environment. Work is currently being done to set up marine rubbish (mainly plastics) capture devices, in the Mexican municipality of Chiapa de Corzo. Based on the identification and quantification of the captured waste, science-based activities will be implemented to encourage the participation of local communities into actions to reduce marine litter. Finally, the project will conclude with an awareness raising campaign, aimed at the public on the threats posed by land-based marine litter (http://www.cec.org/reduction-of-marine-litter/).

NORWAY

102. Norway launched its second national plastic strategy in 2021, outlining the Norwegian Government's ambitions on plastics prevention, reduction, and elimination of plastic pollution. The strategy builds on a lifecycle approach and aims to create a more circular plastics value chain globally, regionally and nationally.

103. To support more sustainable design of plastics products the Norwegian Government sees the need to review current legislation to ensure a legal basis for requirements for products throughout their life cycle, in step with the development of a reinforced European product policy framework for a more circular economy in Europe. Strengthening the demand side of the economy by empowering all consumers public and private and avoiding false green claims, is important. Toxic free circularity is a fundamental cross-cutting premise.

104. To address the need for new research The Norwegian Research Council has strengthened its commitment to a circular economy in their latest strategy, where plastics are one of several important focus areas. The national plastic strategy also points out areas which will be prioritized for more research: mapping the amounts of plastic products on the market in Norway, finding the quality and recyclability of these plastics and how they can be part of a non-toxic material cycle and contribute to the development of new high-quality products.

105. Norway has established schemes for extended producer responsibility (EPR), several of which are relevant to plastics: packaging waste, return systems for beverage containers, discarded electrical and electronic products, scrapped vehicles and discarded tires. The Norwegian government is working to strengthen existing EPR-schemes in order to better serve the transition to a circular economy. Norway is also working to establish a new EPR-scheme for fishing gear and aquaculture waste as well as certain single use products.

106. Norway's waste policy ensures a low degree of pollution and waste problems. Nevertheless, Norway is currently updating its national waste legislation since the waste sector has an increasingly important role in improving resource efficiency and as a provider of secondary raw materials for the circular

economy. A basic new requirement is introducing requirements for all municipalities to separately collect household plastic waste, and setting a binding target of 70% separately collected plastics from all Norwegian households by 2035. By 2030, 52% of plastic packaging should be recycled. To address plastic litter, the Norwegian government has banned several single-use plastic products, introduced labelling requirements and strengthened the coordination and facilitation of effective clean-up work through financial support to voluntary initiatives.

ROMANIA

107. Romania joined the efforts to reduce the environmental impact of plastics and transposed into national law the provisions of EU legislation.

108. As a consequence, 9 categories of disposable plastic products were restricted (ear sticks, cutlery, plates, straw, beverage shakers, food containers / beverage containers / expanded polystyrene glasses or sticks that are attaches to balloons). Also, a cost has been allocated for beverage glasses and food containers, made of plastic which are for single use only.

109. Also, by 2026, Romania aims to progressively reduce up to 15% the quantities of glasses and containers with the above-mentioned characteristics, which will be introduced on the national market.

110. Furthermore, we launched several campaigns at national level: “One Two Three Campaign” aiming to educate citizens and inform them about the importance of separate collection of packaging waste at source and “Cleaning Romania Campaign” aiming to stop the illegal waste dumping.

111. In addition, we are planning the preparation of a national awareness campaign on the negative effects of disposing plastic products and we are in the process of identifying products made from alternative materials to plastic, which can successfully replace a range of other products such as plastic cups or containers.

112. Starting this October, Romanian consumers will pay a mandatory deposit for each bottled beverage they buy. This is part of the recently introduced deposit-return system and the amount will be added to the shelf price of the respective beverage and will be distinctly marked on receipts.

113. The deposit will be applicable to non-refillable primary packaging made of glass, plastic or metal, with volumes between 0.1 litre and 3 litres inclusive, containing water, juice or alcoholic beverages. These containers will be marked with a distinctive symbol and a special barcode. This system should help improve the collection rate for recyclable waste and set new ambitious recycling goals.

SPAIN

114. For some years now, Spain has been committed to reducing certain plastic items. In 2011, with Law 22/2011 on waste and contaminated soil, measures began to be adopted to reduce the consumption of single-use plastic bags, which culminated in the approval of Royal Decree 293/2018. That regulation established the mandatory charge for plastic bags from July 2018 and the prohibition of the marketing of light and very light bags, made of non-compostable plastic, from 2021.

115. Spain's commitment in relation to plastics has subsequently continued, as shown by the forecast, included in the I Action Plan of the Spanish Circular Economy Strategy, for the approval of a specific action plan for plastics, and the recently approved Law 7/2022, of April 8, on waste and contaminated soil for a circular economy. This law includes different measures in relation to plastics:

1. Those related to the transposition of the European Union Directive, among which it is worth highlighting a reduction in 2026 of 50% and in 2030 of 70% in weight, with respect to 2022, for food

containers and plastic cups, which must also be charged from 2023. Progress is also planned in the reduction of certain plastic products such as single-dose containers, plastic rings, etc.

2. Restriction of intentionally added plastic microspheres smaller than 5 mm.
3. A mandate for the development of the Extended Producer Responsibility for non-packaging agricultural plastics within 3 years from the approval of the law.
4. The establishment of a tax on non-reusable plastic containers, in which the amount of virgin plastic used in the containers is taxed, but not the recycled plastic.
5. The promotion of the consumption of drinking water through reusable containers in the facilities of public administrations, thus reducing the consumption of disposable containers, most of them made of plastic.
6. The empowerment of city councils to regulate limitations on smoking on beaches, which will affect tobacco products that contain plastic.

116. In addition to the above, a specific royal decree for packaging and packaging waste is in the process for approval, where the inclusion of certain objectives and measures that would affect plastic packaging has been planned, aimed at:

7. Reduce the generation of waste from plastic containers, especially single-use plastic bottles and for fruits and vegetables marketed in units of less than 1.5 Kg.
8. Incorporate recycled material in new plastic packaging, not just in single-use plastic bottles.
9. Increase the separate collection of household plastic containers by setting separate collection targets of 55%, 65% and 75% for 2025, 2030 and 2035, respectively.

SWITZERLAND

117. Every year, around one million tonnes of plastics are used in Switzerland – this corresponds to 120 kilos per capita (reference year 2017). Every year, 790,000 tonnes of plastic waste is generated, of which 83% (around 660,000 tonnes) is used for energy recovery in incinerators and 2% (around 10,000 tonnes) in cement factories. Around 70,000 tonnes of plastic waste is transformed into recycled plastics - 9% of the Swiss plastic waste is thus recycled. Another 6% (50’000 tonnes) of plastic waste is reused (for example textiles).

118. In contrast to many other countries, Switzerland has not used landfill sites for combustible waste since the year 2000. Therefore, all plastic waste must be recycled or incinerated in an environmentally compatible manner. However, closing the loop on material life cycles still offers potential for optimisation in the recycling of plastics. Based on the data available from studies and estimates for Switzerland, the Federal Office for the Environment estimates that around 14,000 tonnes of macroplastics and microplastics end up in Swiss soils, surface waters and their sediments every year. The largest proportion of these plastics comes from tyre abrasion (around 8,000 tonnes), followed by littering (around 2,700 tonnes) and other sources.

119. Moreover, Switzerland promotes the circular economy. To enhance closing the loop on product life cycles, it is important to promote high-quality separate collections and recycling and reduce littering. Waste prevention is another important topic, because the most environmentally friendly waste does not occur in the first place.

120. As plastic pollution is a global problem, Switzerland also works internationally to prevent and reduce plastic pollution. Switzerland will be actively involved in the upcoming negotiations for an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution based on the mandate agreed at the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) in March 2022. As a party to the Basel Convention on the Control

of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and its amendments, Switzerland is also a very active in that context.

UNITED KINGDOM

121. Our 25 Year Environment Plan sets out our ambition to eliminate all avoidable plastic waste and our Resources and Waste Strategy sets out how we aim to do this. Our measures focus on extracting maximum value from plastic materials by shifting towards a circular economy.

122. Our Environment Act enables us to change how we manage our waste and take forward proposals from our Resources and Waste Strategy. The Act includes powers to introduce deposit return schemes, establish greater recycling consistency, better export controls of plastic waste, introduce design standards, and introduce further charges for other single-use items, including plastic.

123. We are also introducing extended producer responsibility for packaging and introduced a plastic packaging tax this April. Plastic packaging contributes to 55% to 70% of the UK's plastic waste, and these measures will help address that by incentivising businesses to produce more sustainable packaging.

124. We are providing more funding for circular alternatives to single-use plastic packaging, including £60 million to the Smart Sustainable Plastic Packaging Challenge, our largest ever investment in sustainable plastics research and innovation.

125. Through the UK Research and Innovation Industrial Strategy, we have provided £190 million to over 280 projects in the last 5 years for research to help us reduce plastic waste and increase the sustainability of the materials we use.

126. We are also working internationally to tackle the challenges of plastic pollution. Through our Blue Planet Fund, we are supporting the Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP) to take collaborative action on tackling plastic pollution with countries such as Indonesia, Ghana and Vietnam. GPAP brings together world leaders, local decision-makers and industry.

127. The UK co-sponsored the proposal by Rwanda and Peru that led to the resolution on plastic pollution agreed at UNEA 5.2 and is a founding member of the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution.

UNITED STATES

128. The United States is taking an all-of-government approach to implement the following actions and plans to strengthen domestic action and foster international cooperation to address plastic pollution:

- The National Recycling Strategy: Part 1 of a Series on Building a Circular Economy for All, which reaffirmed the goal to increase the U.S. recycling rate to 50 percent by 2030.
- National Strategy for Reducing Plastic and Other Waste in Waterways and Oceans: Part 2 of a series on Building a Circular Economy for All is anticipated to be released end of 2022.
- Sustainable Materials Management (SMM) and WasteWise Programs provide information on U.S. municipal solid waste generation, recycling, composting, combustion with energy recovery and landfilling. WasteWise works with businesses, governments, and nonprofit organizations to promote the use and reuse of materials more productively over their entire life cycles.
- Best Practices for Solid Waste Management: A Guide for Decision-Makers in Developing Countries and complimentary learning modules provide information and resources for decision-makers around the world to improve solid waste management within the context of their given situation.

- Trash Free Waters, a voluntary domestic and international program that emphasizes stakeholder engagement and provides tools such as The Trash Free Waters International Implementation Guideto assist U.S. and international communities with addressing land-based sources of marine litter.
- The Strategy for Plastics Innovation program creates a comprehensive program to accelerate innovations that will dramatically reduce plastic waste in oceans and landfills and position the U.S as global leaders in advanced plastics recycling technologies and in the manufacture of new plastics that are recyclable by design.
- Agricultural research services to develop and raise buyer/consumer awareness of bioplastics, including developing a Certified Biobased Product label to increase consumer and buyer recognition, and the purchase of bioproducts.
- Management and protection of national wildlife refuges, national parks, and coastal and marine monuments and sanctuaries and implementation of programs that actively work with local partners to remove plastic trash and litter from public lands and provide educational products and programs.
- The Recycled Plastics for Food Packaging Program helps divert plastic food contact articles from ending up in landfills or polluting the marine environment, while ensuring that the high-quality plastics previously used for food contact articles are safely used to produce new food contact articles.
- The Microbead-Free Waters Act prohibits the manufacturing, packaging, and distribution of rinse-off cosmetics containing plastic microbeads.
- Satellite remote sensing to detect microplastics in our oceans and track the movement of microplastics in the ocean.
- Standards, technology, and research on the thermal and mechanical properties of polymers at different stages in the recycling process to develop fundamental knowledge and engineering advances.
- The Marine Debris Program provides grants to address the adverse impacts of marine debris on the U.S. economy, the marine environment, and navigation safety and forms partnerships across the United States and internationally.
- Clean Cities, Blue Ocean is a global program that seeks to address through international assistance the estimated 11 million tons of plastic flowing into the ocean each year.

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