

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Closing of the United Nation's INC-5 meeting leaves independent scientists inspired by calls for an ambitious treaty grounded in science by many delegates, and standing ready to continue supporting INC members**

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Busan, Republic of Korea: The United Nations Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee has suspended its [fifth meeting](#) (INC-5) to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution. More than 70 independent scientists from the [Scientists' Coalition for an Effective Plastics Treaty](#) participated in the meeting to support negotiators in understanding and implementing robust knowledge, including the latest peer-reviewed science, into their positions.

*"The science is clear: A treaty that protects human health and the environment needs to address the issues of plastic production and chemicals. If the text is improved by strengthening provisions on plastics production and chemicals of concern, then the treaty will more effectively contribute to end plastics pollution and the harms it causes," says Bethanie Carney Almroth, Professor at the University of Gothenburg (Sweden).*

This INC process has also seen few delegations strategically misrepresent scientific evidence during the discussions.

*"As independent scientists, we are concerned that science has been misused to create confusion and delays by some Member States. This further emphasizes the importance of robust independent science and strategies to prevent conflicts of interest from derailing the future treaty," says Trisia Farrelly, Professor and Honorary Fellow at Massey University and Senior Scientist at the Cawthron Institute (New Zealand).*

In an encouraging development, the Scientists' Coalition has seen the narrative on plastics change substantially from an issue of waste management only, to better reflecting upstream causes and the full lifecycle impacts of plastic pollution, including plastic chemicals of concern. This is thanks, in part, to the tireless work of our scientists and many others who shared scientific facts with negotiators and observers over the past two years of negotiations. The Scientists' Coalition was formed in response to the INC process, and we are grateful for the network of independent scientists that has grown from this, and for all the relationships we have built with negotiators and others working on effectively ending plastic pollution across the full lifecycle.

*"The Scientists' Coalition for an Effective Plastics Treaty has worked tirelessly to deliver independent scientific evidence to inform treaty negotiations. That task does not end here. We will continue to support Member States by providing science-based evidence on the underlying causes of plastic pollution as well as on the potential solutions," says Richard Thompson OBE FRS, Professor and Head of the International Marine Litter Research Unit at the University of Plymouth (UK).*

After not being able to agree on a new global plastics treaty in Busan, the negotiators are expected to continue their work at an additional session in 2025.

## About the Scientists' Coalition

The [Scientists' Coalition for an Effective Plastics Treaty](#) is a global network of 400+ independent scientific and technical experts from 60+ countries that have contributed to the treaty development process with summaries and syntheses of scientific knowledge to decision-makers and the public involved in the negotiations. The Coalition was formed in 2022, following the decision of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) to start the negotiations towards a treaty to end plastic pollution. Our goal is to achieve an effective global plastics treaty anchored in and centered around robust evidence-based decision-making and the precautionary principle, pursuant to UNEA Resolution 5/14. Learn more about us and browse our key resources via our [LinkTree page](#). Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) for updates.

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