

STATEMENT FROM THE PRIVATE FINANCIAL SECTOR TO THE MEMBER STATES NEGOTIATING THE INTERNATIONAL LEGALLY BINDING INSTRUMENT (ILBI) TO END PLASTIC POLLUTION

The purpose of this statement is to demonstrate support from the financial sector for an ambitious international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution and to set out what a robust agreement would include from the perspective of the financial sector.

This statement was drafted by UNEP FI, PRI, Finance for Biodiversity Foundation, Business Coalition for a Global Plastics Treaty, Dutch Association of Investors for Sustainable Development (VBDO) and CDP. It is endorsed by 180 financial institutions representing over c. (US) \$17.2 trillion in combined assets.

Introduction

Our world is facing a triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. This crisis impacts our planet, ecosystems, and the wellbeing of people, especially the most vulnerable. Over recent decades, the production and consumption of plastic, particularly single-use items, has surged. The resulting increase in plastic waste and pollution is a significant and growing threat to climate change, biodiversity, human rights, and public health, which exacerbates system level risks. These risks cannot be mitigated simply by diversifying financial portfolios; they threaten the functioning of wider systems on which financial performance relies.¹ Consequently, they demand urgent and necessary collaboration by all actors, including the international financial community.

Action taken by the financial sector could play a crucial role in addressing the root causes of plastic pollution, and in enabling a sustainable, safe, and just circular plastics economy. A circular plastics economy involves addressing the full life cycle of plastic, with after-use considerations at the design phase, and supporting the development of circular business models for reducing, reusing, refilling, and repairing plastic products and packaging, as well as collection, sorting, recycling, and waste management.

Increasingly, the financial sector is stepping up to the plastic pollution challenge in line with internationally agreed frameworks such as the Paris Agreement and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (including Target 7c) and by engaging with governments on the ILBI negotiations. This includes, among others, initiatives such as the Finance Leadership Group on Plastics,² VBDO's investor statement³ and letter to Members States,⁴ an open letter from a group of CDP's financial investor signatories to governments calling for mandatory plastic-related corporate disclosure,⁵ and the financial institutions supporting the Business Coalition for a Global Plastic Treaty.⁶

But voluntary action is not enough. We take inspiration from multilateral environmental agreements such as the Paris Agreement and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework which set a clear mandate for countries to provide frameworks to sustain the necessary redirection of financial

¹ unpri.org/policy/a-legal-framework-for-impact

² nepfi.org/industries/banking/new-finance-leadership-group-to-support-development-of-international-agreement-to-end-plastic-pollution/

³ https://www.vbdo.nl/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/VBDO-Investor-statement-plastics_17-10-2023.docx.pdf

⁴ <https://www.vbdo.nl/en/2023/11/investors-call-for-global-binding-regulations-on-plastic/>

⁵ cdp.net/en/plastics/open-letter-to-governments-on-plastics-crisis

⁶ [Endorsers | Business Coalition for a Global Plastics Treaty](#)

flows towards climate and biodiversity goals. The ILBI provides an opportunity to establish a similar policy mandate with regards to eliminating plastic pollution.

The financial sector calls for an ambitious international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution and sets out what a robust agreement would include.

As signatories to this statement, we each acknowledge that the financial sector can have a role in mitigating the material financial risks related to plastic pollution through our financed activities and investments, where to do so is consistent with relevant legal frameworks and aligned with our fiduciary duty. This can include, for example: incorporating plastic pollution risks into our investment and financing decision-making processes; stewardship with companies and policymakers to address plastic pollution risks; seeking appropriate disclosure from businesses on plastic related issues; and engaging in plastic value chain initiatives to further our efforts.

We express our willingness to actively address the risks of plastic pollution through our financed activities and investments, and to promote the transition to a sustainable, safe, just, resource efficient, and circular economy for plastics. However, we cannot do this alone.

We call on governments to agree an ambitious ILBI that sets a clear objective to end plastic pollution and that is supported by binding rules and obligations for governments to address the full life cycle of plastic. The ILBI should also be based on a scientific approach and create a framework to align all economic actors towards its objectives. A robust ILBI agreement would:

- **Set an objective to align financial flows, public and private, with the objectives of the ILBI.** Member States could draw inspiration from the similar objective on aligning financial flows as set in the Paris Agreement, in its article 2.1.c,⁷ and in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in its Goal D.⁸
- **Set harmonised targets and binding obligations across the plastics value chain.** This would enable business and financial institutions to make more informed, policy-driven, lending and investment decisions with regards to the plastics value chain.
- **Enable and ensure companies assess and disclose plastic related risks and opportunities** (e.g., as part of their assessment of nature-related risks). This should be enabled through consistent mandatory disclosure requirements, which build on existing voluntary frameworks (such as the TNFD recommendations), and harmonised sustainable finance taxonomies (to support the mobilisation of financial flows to a circular plastics economy).
- **Promote an enabling policy environment for the transition to a sustainable and equitable economy that addresses plastic pollution, such as through the provision of well-designed, harmonised extended producer responsibility schemes** that help scale collection, sorting and recycling systems.
- **Catalyse further private investment to end plastic pollution through public-private partnerships, blended finance, and de-risking mechanisms.** These mechanisms mitigate investment risks and incentivise private sector involvement in combating plastic pollution.
- **Identify and optimise the co-benefits and synergies between financial flows addressing plastic pollution, climate action, and biodiversity preservation and restoration** and ensure these links are reflected in policy and regulatory interventions.

⁷ unfccc.int/files/meetings/paris_nov_2015/application/pdf/paris_agreement_english_.pdf

⁸ cbd.int/gbf/goals/

This statement does not constitute legally binding commitments, nor should it be interpreted as itself dictating or altering the strategies of individual signatories, whose own actions, strategies and policies, as designed and guided by their own business activities and country context, are subject to change and dependent on a variety of factors and variables including actions by other private and public actors, legislations, available methodologies on pathways, as well as accessing client information. Signatories volunteer to sign this statement individually and independently, and signing should not be interpreted as any form of collective action.

List of signatories

1. 9fin
2. a.s.r.
3. Achmea
4. Achmea IM
5. Adrian Dominican Sisters, Portfolio Advisory Board
6. Aegon Asset Management UK
7. Aegon Investment Management B.V.
8. Aéma Groupe
9. Æquo Shareholder Engagement Services
10. Alpha Bank S.A.
11. Alquity Investment Management
12. AltamarCAM Partners
13. AP1 (Första AP-fonden)
14. AP2
15. AP3
16. AP4, The Fourth Swedish National Pension Fund
17. AP7 (Sjunde AP-fonden)
18. ARETI BANK INTERNATIONAL INC
19. Artemis Investment Management LLP
20. Asahi Life Asset Management Co.,Ltd.
21. ASN Bank
22. ASN Impact Investors
23. Atlantic Bridge
24. Australian Ethical Investment
25. Avaron Asset Management
26. Aviva Investors
27. AXA Investment Managers
28. Bancolombia
29. BNP Paribas Asset Management
30. Boston Common Asset Management
31. Caisse des Dépôts
32. CANDRIAM
33. Cardano
34. CCLA Investment Management
35. CDPQ
36. Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church and Epworth Investment Management
37. CFI Partners
38. Circulate Capital Management Pte Ltd
39. Clear Frontier Ag. Management
40. Clear Skies Investment Management
41. Congregation of St. Joseph
42. Dana Investment Advisors
43. Daughters of Charity, Province of St. Louise
44. Delubac AM
45. Domini Impact Investments LLC
46. Dorval Asset Management
47. DPAM
48. East Capital Group
49. ECOFI
50. EdenTree Investment Management
51. EFG Asset Management
52. Employees' Retirement System of Hawai'i
53. EOS at Federated Hermes Limited
54. Erste Asset Management GmbH
55. ESG Portfolio Management GmbH
56. ESG-AM AG
57. Ethical Partners Funds Management
58. Ethos Engagement Pool International
59. Ethos Engagement Services
60. Ethos Foundation
61. Etica Funds - Responsible Investments
62. European Circular Bioeconomy Fund (ECBF)
63. Evli
64. Fidelity International
65. Finance in Motion
66. First Sentier Investors
67. Flat World Partners
68. France Valley
69. Future Group
70. GM Pensiones, Fono de Pensiones
71. Greenbank
72. Handelsbanken Fonder
73. Horizon Capital AG
74. Impax Asset Management
75. ING
76. Intesa Sanpaolo S.p.A.
77. Investec Wealth & Investment UK (IW&I)
78. Inyova Impact Investing
79. IQ-EQ

80. Ircantec
 81. ISGAM AG
 82. JB Financial Group
 83. KBI Global Investors
 84. Khumo Capital
 85. Kimura Capital LLP
 86. La Française Group
 87. Legal & General Investment Management
 88. LGPS Central
 89. LGT Private Banking
 90. Lighthouse AMC Private Limited
 91. Liontrust
 92. LocalTapiola Asset Management Ltd
 93. Lombard Odier Investment Managers
 94. Luzerner Kantonalbank
 95. Lyrical Asset Management LP
 96. MAIF
 97. Mansartis Gestion
 98. Manulife Investment Management
 99. Melior Investment Management
 100. Mercer (Investments)
 101. Mercy Investment Services, Inc.
 102. Mikro Kapital
 103. Mirova
 104. MN
 105. Montanaro Asset Management
 106. Montpensier Finance
 107. naturAlly AG
 108. NEI Investments
 109. Nomura Asset Management Co., Ltd.
 110. Ofi Invest Asset Management
 111. Openspace Ventures
 112. P1 Investment Services Ltd
 113. Pensioenfonds Medewerkers Apotheken (PMA)
 114. Pensioenfonds Metaal en Techniek
 115. Pensioenfonds Rail & Openbaar Vervoer
 116. PGGM
 117. Pictet Group
 118. Planet A
 119. PME Pensioenfonds
 120. PRO BTP FINANCE
 121. ProCredit Holding AG
 122. PT Bina Investama Infonet
 123. radicant bank
 124. Regroupement pour la Responsabilité Sociale des Entreprises (RRSE)
 125. Responsible Alpha
 126. Riverwater Partners
 127. Robeco
 128. Rockefeller Asset Management
 129. Sanicroft International Limited
 130. Sarasin & Partners LLP
 131. SCOR SE
 132. Scottish Widows
 133. Shinhan Financial Group
 134. Shukr Investments LLC
 135. Sienna Investment Managers
 136. Signature Agri Investments
 137. SK Securities
 138. Sophia School Corporation
 139. StartGreen Capital
 140. Storebrand Asset Management
 141. Sumitomo Mitsui DS Asset Management Company, Limited
 142. Swedbank Robur Fonder AB
 143. The Dai-ichi Frontier Life Insurance Co., Ltd.
 144. The Dai-ichi Life Insurance Company, Limited
 145. The Episcopal Church (DFMS)
 146. The Folksam Group
 147. Thematics Asset Management
 148. Trillium Asset Management
 149. Trinetra Investment Management LLP
 150. Triodos Bank
 151. Triodos Investment Management
 152. Triple Point Investment Management
 153. Unigestion
 154. United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund
 155. Universal Materials Incubator Co., Ltd.
 156. Vancity Investment Management
 157. VBV - Vorsorgekasse AG
 158. VEGA Investment Managers
 159. WHEB Asset Management
 160. Woori Financial Group Inc.
- New signatories Intersessional Period INC-5
161. Albizia Capital
 162. All Weather Capital
 163. Bell Asset Management
 164. Benguela Global Fund Managers
 165. Border to Coast Pensions Partnership
 166. Bousard & Gavaudan
 167. Cambridge Associates
 168. Church of Sweden
 169. Danske Bank Asset Management
 170. Flexstone Partners
 171. Generation Investment Management LLP
 172. Green Century Capital Management
 173. Iceberg Data Lab
 174. M&G Investments
 175. Mutualitat Dels Enginyers, MPS
 176. Nordea Asset Management
 177. Physis Investment
 178. Rathbones Group Plc
 179. Ridgewood Capital Asset Management Inc.
 180. Swisscanto Managed by Zürcher Kantonalbank

We would also like to thank industry stakeholders who have further signalled their support to this statement, including As You Sow and Institut de la Finance Durable.

Quoted signatories

Arthur van Mansvelt, Senior Engagement Specialist, Achmea Investment Management said: Achmea IM supports the financial sector statement that calls for a UN Plastics treaty. It is a signal to global policy makers that ambitious regulation is needed to tackle the problem of plastic pollution worldwide. As a responsible investor, Achmea IM has been engaging its investee companies in the plastic value chain to prevent plastic pollution. The private sector, including finance, needs better legislation to create a level playing field and drive the breakthrough of sustainable innovations. Better policies are also needed in many countries to organize waste collection and recycling and thus put an end to plastic pollution.

Dimitris Kazazoglou-Skouras, Group ESG Coordinator, Alpha Bank S.A. said: Addressing plastic pollution is undeniably an urgent need given its profound impact on our planet and future generations. As a committed member of the UNEP FI, Alpha Bank is proud to sign the UNEP FI Finance Statement on Plastic Pollution, through which the financial sector demonstrates its support for an ambitious international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution. On our part, we have implemented a series of initiatives aimed at reducing plastic pollution, including the production of one-third of our annual card issuances on recycled plastic and the collection of significant quantities of plastic materials from our central units for recycling. Moreover, we reaffirm our broader commitment to ESG principles, ensuring that our financial activities foster a healthier, more sustainable world for everyone.

Dimas Palmar, CEO, Areti Bank said: As CEO of Areti Bank, I am proud to affirm our commitment to combatting plastic pollution through the Finance Statement on Plastic Pollution. We recognize the urgent need for collective action to address this global crisis. By signing this statement, we reaffirm our dedication to supporting the development of a robust international agreement that will effectively curb plastic pollution. Together, we can drive positive change and safeguard the health of our planet for future generations.

San Lie, Director, ASN Impact Investors said: We invest in a changing world. We invest to accelerate that change, bringing a sustainable, fair society closer at an accelerated pace. A society in which people are free to make their own choices, without these being at the expense of others. A society free from poverty, in which everyone receives an education, lives in decent housing and enjoys good health. We invest exclusively in companies, governments, green bonds, microfinance institutions, funds and projects that both contribute to a sustainable society and are financially sound. We apply very strict criteria for all our investments, also specific criteria for plastic. Our plastic policy aimed to end plastic pollution is published on our website.

Paul Murray, Partner and ESG Committee Chair, Atlantic Bridge said: As one of Europe's leading deep tech investors, Atlantic Bridge stands in solidarity with the movement for a global initiative aimed at combating plastic pollution. We acknowledge the critical need to address the challenges posed by plastic waste and pollution, recognizing its significant impact on biodiversity and public health.

Paula Meissirel, Senior Stewardship Analyst at BNP Paribas Asset Management said: As we near the fourth session (INC-4) of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, this is a critical time to advocate for an effective and ambitious UN Global Plastics Treaty. By joining the Financial Sector

Statement, BNP Paribas Asset Management wants to express its support to an ambitious legally binding instrument (ILBI) to end plastic pollution, also from the perspective of the financial sector.

Rob Kaplan, Founder and CEO, Circulate Capital said: Turning off the tap of plastic pollution requires systemic change and capital investment in the many billions of dollars. The global treaty is an opportunity to create the enabling conditions for institutional investors to finance circular solutions at scale, fight climate change and support livelihoods around the world.

Karine Hirn, CSO, East Capital Group said: We have enough facts and scientific knowledge to know about the disastrous environmental impact of all the plastic which is being produced and consumed, and need policy makers to introduce proper regulatory environment to mitigate the issue as soon as possible.

Simona Campioni, Senior ESG Analyst, Stewardship, EFG Asset Management said: Even if we can hardly conceive human progress without its pervasive usage, let us not allow plastic to suffocate our seas, forests, lands and, consequently, all living beings. Its impact on the quality of life on earth may be insidious (microplastics) as well as gigantic (floating islands). Let alone its fossil fuels-led production and disposal. We as asset managers are assuming our part of responsibility by monitoring and engaging with companies involved in the plastic supply chain for better practices. We are now calling on UN Member States to do their utmost and catalyse both public law enforcement and private initiatives to curb plastic pollution.

Pauline Lecoursonnois, Engager for EOS at Federated Hermes said: For companies willing to invest in the research and development of circular models and the investors and their representatives supporting them, a robust and harmonised legislative framework is necessary. Several market failures constrain investments today, for example in the production of recycled plastic which remains more expensive than virgin plastic. Circularity will be an essential lever to address climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. We therefore advocate for an ambitious plastic treaty.

Christoph Klein, CFA, CEFA, ESG Portfolio Management GmbH said: It is important to add all costs (cleaning, health effects) to the price of plastic. It is unacceptable that virgin plastic is less expensive than recycled plastic. Exports of plastic from Europe to Asia have to be stopped as soon as possible!

Philipp Good, CEO, ESG-AM AG said: An internationally legally binding instrument for ending plastic pollution stands as a crucial mechanism for change. By aligning investments and financial flows with the goals of an ambitious and comprehensive treaty, the financial sector can influence the transition towards a sustainable and circular plastics economy. We hope to see a strong treaty as the outcome of the negotiations, representing a solid foundation for harmonized regulatory frameworks, stimulating sustainable finance and investments in line with environmental preservation and the well-being of future generations.

Clara Martinez, Manager of External Relations & Sustainable Investing, European Circular Bioeconomy Fund (ECBF) said: We believe this initiative will catalyse a systemic shift that not only will foster transformations in market conditions but also encourage the widespread adoption of cutting-edge technologies. By unlocking new avenues for sustainable growth, the private finance sector will be empowered to play a pivotal role in addressing plastic pollution. Today, ECBF seize and enhance investment opportunities in bio-based biodegradable materials and wish to see more investors redirecting financial flows towards impactful solutions that contribute to overcome such environmental threat.

David Allen, Global Head of Investment Management, First Sentier Investors said: We call on governments to set a clear objective to end plastic pollution and mandate policies that consider the connections between plastic waste, climate action, and nature preservation and restoration. TNFD-aligned plastic related disclosure is another necessary step towards redirecting financial flows towards climate and biodiversity goals. This is why First Sentier Investors is signing the Finance Statement on Plastic Pollution. It is incumbent on us, as a global asset manager, not only to address risks of plastic pollutions in our own investments, but to work collaboratively with our peers, the government and the wider society to address systemic risks that could threaten global economies and financial markets.

Noelia Cuadrado, Chairman, GM Pensiones said: It is humanity's responsibility to make the use of plastic on our planet sustainable.

Anne-Sophie Castelnau, Global head of Sustainability, ING said: As a proud member of the UNEP FI Leadership Group on Plastics, ING supports an ambitious, measurable and time-bound UN Plastics Treaty. With our financing, we want to help our clients across the plastic value chain to reduce their plastic footprint. A clear transition pathway laid out in the Treaty will help leverage finance at scale for this massive task of ending plastic pollution worldwide.

Andreas von Angerer, Head of Impact, Inyova Impact Investing said: We all rely on a functional planet to be able to do business. Plastic-related pollution is threatening that functionality.

Mark Harland - Head of Sustainability, IQ-EQ said: IQ-EQ joins the PRI and fellow signatories in calling for an end to plastic pollution and we will be taking action to ensure we reduce, re-use, and recycle our plastic waste across our operations.

Hadrien Gaudin-Hamama, Impact & ESG Specialist, Mirova said: Mirova supports the issuance of specific funds mobilization targets for the financial sector so as to guide investors towards solutions supporting achievement of sustainability goals and protection of marine biodiversity.

Kate Hewitt, ESG & Impact Specialist, Montanaro Asset Management said: Montanaro Asset Management is proud to stand alongside our peers in the financial sector in calling for an ambitious international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution. This crisis demands urgent, collective action not just for the sustainability of our planet but for the long-term viability of the global economy. We believe that by aligning our investment strategies with the principles of a circular plastics economy, we can drive significant positive change. This is an investment in our shared future—ensuring a healthier planet and a resilient, equitable economy that thrives by respecting and restoring the natural world.

Dr Quintin Rayer, Head of Research & Ethical Investment, P1 Investment Services Ltd. said: The financial sector has a crucial role in addressing risks from plastic pollution through investments, to help reduce and prevent the appalling tide of plastic waste from destroying critical planetary ecosystems and biodiversity.

Gabriel Thoumi, CFA, FRM, Certified Ecologist, CEO, Responsible Alpha said: What matters most is progress via a treaty that works for all countries and all parties, that can be updated later. We start today with a treaty and move forward afterwards with amendments as a treaty commits each of us whether public or private sector to collaborating and working together to solving the plastic pollution crisis.

Duncan Vink, Director, Signature Agri Investments said: As agricultural investors we are profoundly concerned with, in particular, the plastic use and associated waste that is currently inherent in the

food production sector. Our hope is that by joining this call for concerted action we will be able to contribute to the reduction of the plastic pollution caused by our industry.

Dick van Ommeren, Chair of the Management Board at Triodos Investment Management said: Extensive use of plastic has a detrimental effect on our environment, the climate, biodiversity, human rights and public health. The current rate of plastic production is unsustainable, and cleaning up the aftermath is an overwhelming task. While the financial sector can play an important role in addressing the root cause of plastic pollution through engagement with companies, we need an international legally binding instrument that sets a clear objective to end plastic pollution.

Andreas Zakostelsky, Chief Executive Officer, VBV - Vorsorgekasse AG said: Biodiversity is declining at an alarming rate. By signing the 'Finance for Biodiversity Pledge', we, as a domestic market leader in the area of providence funds, joined the group of global companies committed to making a contribution to protecting and restoring biodiversity through their financial activities. The now demanded ban on plastic pollution is an important next step in this regard.