

Frequently Asked Questions for the Finance Statement

1. What is the Finance Statement on Plastic Pollution?

The Finance Statement is a statement from individual companies that are part of the private financial sector to the member states currently negotiating the international legally binding instrument ('ILBI') to end plastic pollution. It calls for an ambitious instrument to end plastic pollution and sets out what a robust agreement would include from the perspective of the financial sector.

2. What is the international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution currently under negotiation?

The international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution is an international instrument that UN Member States have been mandated to negotiate by end of 2024 by the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA 5.2) in March 2022 (Resolution 5/14). UN Resolution 5/14 aims to tackle plastic pollution through coordinated global efforts and a legally binding framework. Four rounds of negotiations have already taken place. The fifth session of the International Negotiating Committee (INC-5) is scheduled to take place from 25 November – 1 December in Busan, Republic of Korea. More information on INC-5 and ILBI on plastic pollution can be found on this [website](#).

3. What is the objective of the Finance Statement on Plastic Pollution?

The Finance Statement is a call from the private financial industry (including investors, service providers, banks and insurers) for an ambitious international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution, which creates the enabling environment to align all economic actors to end plastic pollution and sets out what a robust agreement should include from the perspective of the financial sector. It was launched ahead of the fourth round of negotiations (INC-4) in April 2024.

Mobilizing financial resources is generally recognized as a crucial element of the future international instrument. Moreover, during the third round of negotiation (INC-3) in November 2023, Member States expressed a wish to deepen the discussion on finance in the next round of negotiations. Hence the Finance Statement brings the private financial sector's voice to the table to help enable the mobilization of financial resources (both private and public) to achieve the objectives of the future instrument.

4. Why sign the Finance Statement on Plastic Pollution?

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 or managed simply by diversifying financial portfolios and they threaten the functioning of wider systems on which financial performance relies.

By signing the Finance Statement your organization underlines the importance of global efforts to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement, the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Global Framework on Chemicals and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. If your organization signed in December 2022 the [Financial Sector Statement on Biodiversity for COP15](#), signing the Finance Statement on Plastic Pollution is a step further towards contributing to the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems, and achieving target 7 of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to "Reduce pollution risks and the negative impact of pollution from all sources ... preventing, reducing, and working towards eliminating plastic pollution".

5. What if I have already signed up to an initiative or statement that is advocating for an ambitious international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution?

This statement builds on the work of initiatives and organisations currently engaging with the development of the international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution. It does so by elevating the perspective of the financial sector to highlight what a robust ILBI would include, and by co-ordinating and complementing the existing efforts of UNEP FI, PRI, VBDO, the Business Coalition for a Global Plastics Treaty, and CDP.

6. What does signing the Finance Statement on Plastic Pollution mean for your own organisation?

Signing the Finance Statement means that your organization acknowledges the role that the private finance sector could play in mitigating the material financial risks related to plastic pollution via their finance activities and investments. The signing organization also expresses willingness to actively engage in combating plastic pollution through finance activities and investments, and to take part in the transition to a sustainable, safe, just, resource efficient, and circular economy for plastics.

7. What the Finance Statement on Plastic Pollution is not?

The Finance Statement is not a legally binding commitment, nor should it be interpreted as dictating or altering the strategies of individual signatories. Signatories volunteer to sign this statement individually and independently, and signing should not be interpreted as any form of collective action.

8. Who is inviting our company to sign the Finance Statement on Plastic Pollution?

The Finance Statement and these FAQs have been prepared by the following partners: The UNEP Finance Initiative (UNEP FI), the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), the Finance for Biodiversity Foundation, the Business Coalition for a Global Plastics Treaty, the Dutch Association of Investors for Sustainable Development (VBDO) and CDP.

9. Where and when can I sign?

Financial institutions can sign the Finance Statement through a sign-on form that can be accessed [here](#). Signatures must be submitted by 20 November 2024 to be included in any final announcements at INC-5.

10. What information does our organization need to provide for signing the Finance Statement on Plastic Pollution?

Name of organization, total assets under management or balance sheet total for 2023 in USD, name and title of authorized person to sign-on, email address of one contact person. The list of signatories of the Finance Statement will mention the signing companies, and there will be no physical person referenced as signatory. Nor does signing require your organisation to provide its logo for use in connection with the Finance Statement. Signatories can also provide an optional quote which will be considered for inclusion in the press release announcing the statement and the final list of signatories.