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Sustainable Plastics

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Position Statement

Moving into a New Era of Responsible and Holistic Sustainability

Lisbon, October 2025

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Overview

The transition towards sustainability, climate neutrality, and circularity represents one of the most profound transformations in modern history. Achieving these objectives demands not only innovation and technological advancement but also a fundamental rethinking of how materials, industry, and society interact with the planet's finite resources.

Building a resilient and regenerative economy will require unprecedented levels of collaboration across disciplines, sectors, and borders. This transformation must be powered by innovation, digitalization, and responsible governance, promoting resource efficiency, circular design, and regenerative practices throughout the entire value chain.

The challenges we face today – from population growth and resource scarcity to pollution and climate change – call for a new economic and societal paradigm. One that integrates competitiveness, inclusiveness, and environmental stewardship within a coherent and science-based framework.

The Plastics Summit – Global Event 2025 Position Statement embodies this vision. It is a collective call to action for all stakeholders – from industry to consumers, from policymakers to civil society – to commit to a climate-neutral, circular, and inclusive global economy.

This Position Statement proposes and consolidates strategic recommendations and actionable commitments addressed to international organizations, decision-makers, and industry leaders.

It is structured around four interconnected pillars that define the pathway towards a sustainable and regenerative future:

I. RESILIENT INDUSTRY AND INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT
II. TRANSITION PATHWAYS: SOCIETAL APPROACH
III. KEEP LOOPING: EHANCING CIRCULARITY
IV. REGENERATIVE ECOSYSTEM ARCHITECTURE: FROM CRADLE TO CRADLE

We, the undersigned, recognize and reinforce the need to move from ambition to action, promoting low-carbon, resource-efficient, and circular solutions that ensure a sustainable, safe, and equitable future for generations to come.
To this effect,the following measures and actions should be taken into consideration:

Overarching Principle: From Ambition to Action

All statements should be underpinned by a shared commitment to translate ambitious goals into actionable, measurable, and verifiable commitments, enabling future accountability.

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I. Resilient Industry and Integrated Management

A resilient and forward-looking industry is one that adapts, innovates, and thrives while safeguarding people and the planet. Building such resilience requires coherent and science-based regulation, the integration of digital and emerging technologies, and a commitment to efficient and responsible resource management across the entire value chain.

By harmonizing regulatory frameworks, promoting a just and feasible green transition, harnessing data and innovation, and strengthening collaboration across sectors, industries can advance the transition to circularity and sustainability while enhancing global competitiveness.

This integrated approach contributes directly to several **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals** – particularly **SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy)**, **SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)**, **SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure)** and **SDG 13 (Climate Action)** – while supporting **SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production)** and **SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)**.

Together, these actions reinforce the foundations of a resilient, inclusive, and future-ready industrial ecosystem – one capable of creating shared value, driving innovation, and ensuring that sustainability and competitiveness go hand in hand.

Direct SDGs:

Indirect SDGs:

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I. Resilient Industry and Integrated Management

#1 Harmonize and Streamline Regulations

- Promote and support coherent and interoperable regulatory frameworks guided by independent scientific evidence.
- Ensure proportionality, avoid duplication and unnecessary administrative burden, and strengthen global competitiveness through harmonization and alignment with existing international treaties, standards and agreements.

#2 Promote a Just and Feasible Green Transition (Scope 1-2-3)

- Drive investment in decarbonization across the entire value chain, prioritizing the energy transition in chemical and manufacturing industries through, e.g. low-carbon energy, hydrogen, and carbon and natural credits, alongside circularity pathways.
- Foster stable, long-term regional political strategies that extend beyond 2050 and incorporate due diligence mechanisms to safeguard a level playing field to ensure financial viability and competitiveness.
- Encourage targeted support for SMEs and industry transition, recognizing that a successful green transition requires integrated, multi-disciplinary approaches from both public and private sectors.

#3 Harness Data and Emerging Technologies

- Catalyze digital platforms, data-sharing tools, and emerging technologies – including AI – to enhance supply chain management, traceability, and data credibility across the entire product lifecycle.
- Leverage these technologies to optimize material and product ecodesign aligned with Waste Hierarchy principles, while improving, optimizing and maximizing operations, such as collection, sorting and recycling to deliver high-quality secondary raw-materials and foster more effective consumer engagement.

#4 Strengthen Value Chain Integration and Resource Efficiency

- Drive sustainable supply chain management and material efficiency practices – including repair, reuse, recycling, material recovery, and resource optimization – through cross-sector collaboration and industrial symbiosis to enhance resilience, reduce and prevent waste, increase product quality and recyclability, and strengthen competitiveness and industry self-regulation.

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II. Transition Pathways: Societal Approach

A successful transition towards sustainability depends not only on technological and regulatory progress but also on society's ability to understand, trust, and actively participate in change. Building this shared understanding requires transparent and evidence-based information, effective communication, and education that empower citizens, businesses, and policymakers to make informed, responsible choices.

By ensuring independent, science-based data on product safety and sustainability, providing clear and contextualized information, and promoting behavioural change across generations and sectors, we can strengthen public trust and collective engagement in the circular transition.

This societal approach directly supports the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**, particularly **SDG 4 (Quality Education)**, **SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production)**, and **SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)**, while contributing to **SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being)**, **SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities)** and **SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)**.

Together, these efforts create an informed and empowered society – one capable of driving sustainable innovation, responsible consumption, and a fair, inclusive transition towards a circular and climate-neutral future.

Direct SDGs:

Indirect SDGs:

II. Transition Pathways: Societal Approach

#1 Independent, Evidence-Based Safety and Sustainability Information

- Ensure that all claims regarding product's essentiality, safety and sustainability are transparent, grounded in robust independent scientific evidence, and verified through credible standards, certification processes and labelling.

#2 Empower Society with Clear and Trustworthy Information

- Provide economic operators, designers, consumers, media, and policymakers with accurate, trustworthy, and contextualized information on the benefits, safety and sustainability considerations, environmental and social impacts, and trade-offs of different materials and solutions – enabling a well-informed, just, inclusive, and health and well-being conscious decision-making across society.

#3 Promote Behaviour Change Across the Value Chain

- Equip product designers, economic operators, and policymakers with circular economy knowledge and skills to enable informed decisions and concrete actions on product safety and sustainability.
- Foster environmental literacy and behaviour change across all age groups – especially children and youth – to promote responsible consumption and waste management practices.

III. Keep Looping: Enhancing Circularity

Transitioning towards a truly circular economy requires more than recycling — it calls for a systemic redesign of how materials and products are conceived, used, and recovered. Circularity begins at the design stage, where environmental, health, and biodiversity impacts can be minimized, and resource efficiency maximized.

To close the loop effectively, innovation and investment must drive scalable recycling, repair, and waste management solutions, supported by transparent and traceable systems that ensure accountability and prevent greenwashing. Stable political frameworks and financial mechanisms are equally vital to remove barriers, foster competitiveness, and accelerate the adoption of circular practices across all sectors.

This approach directly supports the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**, particularly **SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure)**, **SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)**, and **SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production)**, while contributing to **SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation)**, **SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)**, and **SDG 13 (Climate Action)**.

Together, these actions help build a regenerative, resource-efficient industrial ecosystem – one that keeps materials in use, reduces waste, and strengthens the foundations of a competitive, climate-neutral circular economy.

Direct SDGs:

Indirect SDGs:

III. Keep Looping: Enhancing Circularity

#1 Design for Circularity and Regeneration

- Integrate circular economy principles from the design stage to address environmental, health, and biodiversity impacts while optimizing resource efficiency and aligning with emerging and global standards.

#2 Innovate and Scale Recyclability, Recycling and Waste Management Solutions

- Advance research and innovation at the product design stage, secure funding, and deploy mechanical, chemical, and biological recycling technologies, alongside complementary approaches supported by AI where relevant.
- Strengthen existing infrastructure and systems for high-quality collection, sorting, and waste management to effectively close material loops.
- Foster stable regulatory and political frameworks to support these efforts and promote global adoption of the Waste Hierarchy, with repair and refurbishment integrated as priorities.

#3 Ensure Transparency, Traceability, and Accountability

- Develop verifiable systems for tracking material and product flows throughout the value chain, including substance-level information where relevant, to ensure data integrity, prevent greenwashing, and strengthen secondary markets.

#4 Address Financial and Competitiveness Barriers

- Remove financial and competitiveness barriers to circularity and waste reduction through accessible support mechanisms and mobilization of public and private investment for SMEs and industry transition.
- Green Public Procurement Criteria can serve as a key driver to accelerate the adoption and scaling of circular practices.

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IV. Regenerative Ecosystem Architecture: From Cradle to Cradle

Moving beyond sustainability towards regeneration requires rethinking how we design, produce, consume, and coexist with nature. A regenerative ecosystem approach aims not only to minimize environmental harm but to restore natural systems, regenerate biodiversity, and strengthen planetary resilience.

This transformation depends on global and regional cooperation, integrating science, policy, business, and civil society around shared objectives. Mobilizing resources for regenerative solutions, embedding them into business models and policy frameworks, and adopting holistic strategies that consider the entire lifecycle of materials and products are essential steps in this process.

By shifting from a narrative of "biodiversity loss" to one of "regenerative nature," industry and society can work together to address climate change, pollution, and ecosystem degradation in a unified and forward-looking way.

These actions directly advance the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**, particularly **SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation)**, **SDG 14 (Life Below Water)**, and **SDG 15 (Life on Land)**, while reinforcing **SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)**, **SDG 13 (Climate Action)**, **SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)**, and underpinning the holistic vision of the 2030 Agenda.

Together, they lay the foundation for a regenerative economy – one that restores balance between human activity and nature, ensuring prosperity, resilience, and well-being for generations to come.

Direct SDGs:

Indirect SDGs:

IV. Regenerative Ecosystem Architecture: From Cradle to Cradle

#1 Foster Global and Regional Cooperation

- Build multi-stakeholder cooperation across the public and private sectors, academia and civil society – with active engagement of consumers – to prevent lifecycle pollution, restore ecosystems, and accelerate implementation of international treaties and frameworks, all grounded in robust, independent scientific evidence and aligned with global sustainability objectives.

#2 Mobilize Resources for Regenerative Solutions

- Secure funding and scale up regenerative approaches and sustainable resource management practices, aligned with the Waste Hierarchy and supporting the regeneration of natural systems, to address natural resource scarcity, such as critical raw materials
- Embed these principles into business and economic models, as well as public policies, recognizing regeneration as an emerging priority that demands accelerated awareness and integration.

#3 Adopt Holistic and Interconnected Strategies

- Advance and promote systemic approaches in harmony with the Earth's ecological limits that integrate all lifecycle stages - from design and production to use and end-of-life management – with health, climate, biodiversity, and ecosystem impacts to build long-term resilience and sustainability.

#4 Shift from "Biodiversity Loss" to "Regenerative Nature"

- Deploy practical and integrated solutions that tackle biodiversity, climate change, and pollution in tandem, while actively regenerating ecosystems and protecting well-being, as well as animal and human health.

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INSTITUTIONAL		
Organization	**Stakeholder**	**Country**
AIMPLAS	Research/Academia	Spain
Algenesis Labs	Industry	United States of America
ANAIP	Association	Spain
APEMETA	Association	Portugal
APIP	Association	Portugal
APLM - Portuguese Marine Litter Association	NGO	Portugal
Argentine Chamber of the Plastics Industry	Association	Argentina
Asociación Dominicana de la Industria de Plástico	Association	Dominican Republic
BLUEVIEW Footwear	Brand-Owner	United States of America
CAP - Confederação dos Agricultores de Portugal	Association	Portugal

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Organization	**Stakeholder**	**Country**
Celoplás, S.A.	Industry	Portugal
CEP - Centro Español de Plásticos	Association	Spain
Colorstar, Lda	Industry	Portugal
COPAM - Companhia Portuguesa de Amidos	Industry	Portugal
ESGRA - Associação para a Gestão de Resíduos	Association	Portugal
Everythink, Lda	Consultancy	Portugal
GreenWavePlastics	Waste Management	The Nederlands
HAEE - Hungarian Association of Environmental Enterprises	Association	Hungary
HOLOSS	Research/Academia	Portugal

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Organization	**Stakeholder**	**Country**
Instituto de Embalagens	Research/Academia	Brazil
IPC - Centre Technique Industriel de la Plasturgie et des Composites	Research/Academia	France
Island Innovation	Consultancy	Portugal
Jakarta International University, Center for Entrepreneurship, Sustainability and Innovation	Research/Academia	Indonesia
MaxiQuim Ltda.	Consultancy	Brazil
MPlastic, Lda	Industry	Portugal
New Normal Consulting	Consultancy	Portugal
PlastiVision India	Trade Show	India
PIEP	Research/Academia	Portugal

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Organization	**Stakeholder**	**Country**
Plasoeste	Industry	Portugal
Polivouga	Industry	Portugal
Portuguese Plastics Pact	Collaborative Initiative	Portugal
PREVINIL (CIRES / SHIN ETSU Group)	Industry	Portugal
Searious Business	Consultancy	The Nederlands
SIE	Industry	Portugal
Sociedade Ponto Verde	Waste Management	Portugal
Sustenuto	Consultancy	Belgium
Tecnopol Snetor Ibérica	Retailers/Distributors	Portugal
Termocompo - Indústria Termoplástica, Lda	Industry	Portugal

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Organization	**Stakeholder**	**Country**
Turismo de Portugal, I.P.	Governments/Local Authorities	Portugal
Ultrapolymers Portugal S.L.	Industry	Portugal
University of Aveiro	Research/Academia	Portugal
University of Coimbra	Research/Academia	Portugal
Veolia	Industry	Portugal
Vizelpas	Industry	Portugal
Waste Free Oceans Foundation	NGO	Belgium
Women in Plastics Italy	Association	Italy

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