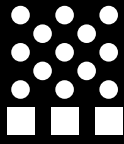


PLASTIC  
HEALTH  
COUNCIL



THE HEALTH SCIENTISTS'  
GLOBAL PLASTICS TREATY

## Leading global scientists urge UN to adopt health-led plastics treaty

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

MORE than 20 leading international scientists have today called for world leaders to put human health at the heart of the Global Plastics Treaty.

The scientists have co-signed an open letter to the international community to coincide with UN Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-3) in Nairobi this week.

The scientists include: Dr Linda S. Birnbaum of Duke University, Dr John Peterson Myers of Carnegie Mellon University, Professor Dr Dick Vethaak of VU University Amsterdam, Dr Terrence J. Collins of Carnegie Mellon University, Dr Philip J. Landrigan of Boston College, Dr Shanna H. Swan of Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Professor Dr Barbro Melgert of the University of Groningen, and Professor Hugh Montgomery of University College London.

Globally, 400 million tonnes of plastic is produced every year with 16,000 component chemical ingredients, some of which are associated with endocrine disruption, fertility, heart disease, and cancer.

Led by the Plastic Health Council, representing leading scientists, the letter outlines the key elements of the 'Health Scientists' Global Plastic Treaty' that must be included to address the known science on the impact of plastic chemical and particles on health.

They argue that the current UN published 'Zero Draft' "falls short" and is not "strong enough to protect the health of future generations".

The scientists agree that an impactful treaty must "reduce the production volumes of plastics", "eradicate all but verifiably essential single-use plastic items", "mandate proper testing of all chemicals in plastics", and "prohibit 'chemical recycling' of plastic".

They write "*The Global Plastics Treaty is a once-in-a-century opportunity to protect human health from toxic polluting plastic. World leaders cannot afford to leave their populations vulnerable to the toxic effects of plastic.*"

The Plastic Health Council will be attending INC-3 in Nairobi to urge delegates to ensure that the human health impact of plastic is a core element of any future legally binding treaty on plastic pollution.

**Dr John Peterson Myers, Founder, Environmental Health Sciences and Member of the Plastic Health Council said:**

“What began as an almost invisible trickle near the beginning of the 20th Century now in the 21st has become a monstrous tsunami. Plastic and plastic chemicals have spread like a scourge to every part of our planet, even inside us at levels known to be hazardous. Yet industry projections based on "business-as-usual" anticipate the volume of plastics created will double by the mid-century.

“We must choose. Will we smother the Earth and ourselves with toxic plastics? Or do we have the courage and foresight to stop the onslaught?”

**Sian Sutherland, Co-founder of A Plastic Planet and the Plastic Health Council, said:**

“Plastic is inescapable, omnipresent in our lives, and so are the chemical additives and particles that come with it. We are breathing, drinking and eating plastic every day. It is a material that is not on the periodic table. It is a blend of chemicals; some of them deemed toxic by health scientists. No more research and facts are needed to irrefutably prove these chemicals are bad for us.”

“We desperately need a Global Plastics Treaty that uses the irrefutable evidence from the litany of peer-reviewed research reports as a catalyst for real action. What will it take for global policymakers to resist the intense lobbying from big oil and mandate safer materials and chemicals that do not infect our planet and our children?”

**ENDS**

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**Notes to Editor:**

**The Plastic Health Council**

- The Plastic Health Council has one simple goal - to protect future generations from the manmade plastic health crisis.
- Throughout these INC negotiations, we have a narrow window to impact the UN Plastics Treaty, to ensure the final Treaty is robust and does indeed protect the unborn, the next generations from the impact of microplastics, nano-plastics and hazardous chemicals within plastic. The scientists are clear. We have the evidence. Now we need to act.