

# Commitments to Act

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**Towards a Pollution-Free Planet**

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# Commitments: the What?

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Commitments can :

- Relate to any or all of the following pollution risk areas:
    - ❑ air, water, land, coastal and marine, chemicals, waste.
  - Consist of concrete targets or actions
    - ❑ to avoid, reduce, mitigate, measure, monitor, report, and/or manage pollution.
  - Include quantifiable information
    - ❑ in the form of targets or actions, including commitment period and timeframe for implementation.
  - Be new or have already been made;
    - ❑ in this case, progress made on the earlier commitment will need to be reported to the Secretariat
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# Commitments: the Who?

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- Governments, parliamentarians, law enforcement entities, judges
  - Intergovernmental organisations, international finance institutions, multilateral agreements
  - Businesses, private sector entities and associations
  - Cities, local and subnational authorities and their networks
  - Civil Society Organisations, Foundations, Philanthropic Entities
  - Established partnerships/initiatives/networks
  - Citizens
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# Pledges: the How?

## For citizens

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- Proposed Actions will be available on the UN Environment Assembly web platform with information about each pollution risk area and promoted on social media channels.
  - Citizens will be able to commit to individual actions, choosing one or all actions given on the website and/or creating their own actions and sign a Pollution-Free Planet pledge.
  - The proposed concrete actions:
    - are designed to be easily understood and taken up by people everywhere.
    - can be chosen according to the relevance of local environments.
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# Examples of actions for citizens

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- Use clean technologies to light and power my home
  - Rethink my own plastic use, eliminating single-use plastics and buying unpackaged food when I can
  - Buy biodegradable products
  - Eat less meat and more organic food
  - Use natural cleaning products at home
  - Learn about and take advantage of local opportunities to recycle and compost
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# Commitments: the How?

## For all stakeholders except citizens

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- Should be communicated to the UN Environment Secretariat
  - A standard questionnaire to record the commitment will be made available
    - on line through the UN Environment Assembly webplatform.
    - as a downloadable word document.
  - The Secretariat will accept both commitments made on line or recorded on paper.
  - Stocktaking of commitments of action will be made as of
    - 15 June, 30 September and 30 November (December 4) to enable commitments to be included in the background document prepared for the Assembly or to be announced.
  - Early announcements are encouraged
    - with a view to keep up the momentum.
    - to be included in the background document
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# Stakeholders will be able to commit online – on the UN Environment Assembly web platform

*Please complete information about the entity making this commitment.*

**Entity name** (under the authority of which the commitment is made)

**Lead entity type**

 

**Geographical scope**

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Global          | <input type="radio"/> <u>Subnational</u>                                 |
| <input type="radio"/> <u>Regional</u> | <input type="radio"/> Local  |
| <input type="radio"/> National        | <input type="radio"/> <u>Other (please specify)</u> <input type="text"/> |

**NEXT »**

# The Asks

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## 1 – Indicate the commitment

- Selection of the pollution area the commitment is targeting
- Description of the commitment (objectives, implementation methodologies, follow-up mechanisms, governance, etc.)
- Deliverables and timeframe
- Link to the Sustainable Development Goals

## 2- Describe the pollution challenge the commitment is addressing *(to better understand the added value of the commitment and help define a baseline)*

- Member States are invited to provide information on the regulatory, legislative, policy environment already in place to tackle the pollution as well as monitoring, if any
- Businesses/private sector stakeholders are invited to provide information on the major global standards they may already be adhering to, and the monitoring protocol, if any
- Other stakeholders are invited to describe the major impacts of the pollution area (health, environment, economic and social development, peace, security and human rights)

## 3- Describe the resources mobilised/required

ie. Financial, Technology transfer, Legal , Advocacy and awareness-raising, Capacity development

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# Main categories of commitments

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1. Public advocacy/campaign
  2. Environmental education
  3. Monitoring and reporting of pollution levels
  4. Institutional strengthening
  5. Research and development; Technology change; Innovation
  6. Partnership building
  7. New legislative/policy/ financial instruments
  8. Policy enforcement and compliance
  9. Restoration/clean-up of polluted or degraded sites
  10. Compensations to those affected by pollution
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# Examples of commitments (1/2)

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- **Across pollution areas**

- Monitor and report on pollution levels, and make the information publically available (Member States)
- Apply polluter pays principle (Member States)
- Apply precautionary principle ( Member States)

- **Air pollution**

- Adopt vehicle emissions standards of Euro 4 standard or above.
- Increase energy efficiency in industries
- Developing national programmes promoting efficient heating and cooking stoves.
- Join the Breathe Life campaign (Member States, local authorities)

- **Freshwater pollution**

- Reduce and/or increase efficiency in safe use of pesticides (Member States, private sector)
  - Replace aged water infrastructure (e.g. lead in pipes) (Member States, local authorities)
  - Work towards/ Attain universal safely managed sanitation (all)
  - Increase reuse of wastewater to reduce untreated discharges into water bodies ( Member States/private sector)
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# Examples of commitments (2/2)

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- **Marine and coastal pollution**

- Ban plastic bags (Member States, retailers)
- Ban use of microplastics (private sector)
- Reduce the discharge of untreated wastewater (Member States, private sector)

- **Land and soil contamination**

- Commit to using phosphate-free product formulation (private sector)
- Enhance capacity to use fertilisers more efficiently (Member states, private sector)
- Commit to implementing best-practice management of mine waste to avoid tailings dam leakage and disasters (government, private sector).

- **Waste pollution**

- Regulate open burning of municipal, industrial and agricultural waste (Member States)
- Convert open dumps to sanitary landfills (Member States, Local authorities)
- Increase investment for recapture of recyclable waste streams/materials
- Commit to waste separation (Member States, private sector)

- **Chemicals pollution**

- Reduce the release of contaminants of emerging concerns ( e.g pharmaceuticals , endocrine disruptors)
  - Phase out the use of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) in equipment (e.g. transformers, capacitors) by 2025 and to environmentally sound waste management of liquids and contaminated equipment by 2028. (Member States)
  - Phase out the use of lead in paint by 2020 (Member States, industry and retailers)
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# Commitments: what for?

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- Commitments help build the momentum and mobilise energy from all concerned stakeholders and citizens for them to take an active part in transformative change towards a pollution-free planet
  - Member States commitments can be taken up at the regional level and contribute to inform the outcome of the UN Environment Assembly
  - Commitments can inform some of the UN Environment Assembly resolutions and the Ministerial declaration
  - Commitments can also be a way to better understand priorities and needs for the future, e.g. contributing to better shape capacity strengthening programmes and defining action plans
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Thank you

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