TOUR OPERATORS, TRAVEL AGENTS, ONLINE TRAVEL AGENTS AND PLATFORMS SIGNATORY PACK

CONTEXT

Plastic pollution is one of the major environmental challenges of our time, and tourism has an important role to play in contributing to the solution. Much of the plastic used in tourism is made to be thrown away and often can't be recycled, leading to large amounts of pollution. Alongside damaging biodiversity, the production of over 300 million tonnes of new plastic every year[1] depletes natural resources and contributes to greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming.

Tourism companies and destinations have been making great strides towards reducing their environmental impact and operating in harmony with nature. Yet, taking action on plastics pollution and transitioning to circularity in the use of plastics is critical to increase sustainability in the sector. The problem of plastic pollution in tourism is too big for any single organisation to fix on its own. To match the scale of the problem, changes need to take place across the whole tourism value chain. Therefore, tourism stakeholders around the world are working together and taking a systemic approach through the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative.

INTRODUCING THE GLOBAL TOURISM PLASTICS INITIATIVE

The Global Tourism Plastics Initiative ('Global Tourism Plastics Initiative') is led by the UN Environment Programme ('UNEP') and the World Tourism Organisation ('UNWTO'), in collaboration with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation ('Foundation'). It was launched to the tourism industry in January 2020, uniting the sector behind a common vision to take action that addresses the root causes of plastic pollution. It enables businesses[2], destinations[3], associations and NGOs[4] to take concerted action, leading by example in the shift towards circularity in the use of plastics.

To help make this vision a reality, businesses, destinations, associations and NGOs commit to a set of ambitious 2025 targets. They will work to **eliminate** the plastic items we don't need; **innovate** so all plastics we do need are designed to be safely reused, recycled, or composted; and **circulate** everything we use to keep it in the economy and out of the environment.

The Global Tourism Plastics Initiative is fully aligned with the Foundation's New Plastics Economy Global Commitment ('Global Commitment'), which unites more than 450 businesses, governments, and other organisations behind the same common vision and targets to address plastic waste and pollution at its source. As such, the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative will implement the Global Commitment vision, framework and definitions to mobilise the global tourism industry towards concerted significant action against plastic pollution. The Global Tourism Plastics Initiative acts as an interface of the Global Commitment for the tourism sector.

Credibility and transparency will be ensured by setting a clear minimum level of ambition for all signatories, a common set of definitions underpinning all commitments, and annual public reporting on progress. Progress towards the common vision, targets and commitments will be monitored, analysed, compared with the Global Commitment and used to help shape decisions regarding the

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[1] According to the UNEP 2018 report "Mapping of global plastics value chain and plastics losses to the environment", the "global production was about 388 million tonnes (Mt) in 2015": https://gefmarineplastics.org/publications/mapping-of-global-plastics-value-chain-and-plastics-losses-to-the-environment-with-a-particular-focus-on-marine-environment.

[2] "Business signatories" include tourism businesses of all subsectors – accommodation, airlines, cruise lines, tour operators, online travel agents, platforms, etc – and suppliers.

[3] "Destination signatories" include national and local governments or destination management organizations (mainly public sector led).

[4] Associations and NGOs can become "supporting organization signatories", together with business networks and other entities such as certification schemes, academia, consultancies and/or destination management organizations (mainly public-private or private sector led), which although do not have a large plastic footprint per se, can create multiplier effects across the tourism value chain.

minimum level of ambition for each initiative. The minimum ambition level will be reviewed every 18 to 24 months, and become increasingly ambitious over the coming years to ensure the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative continues to represent true leadership.

The Global Tourism Plastics Initiative aims to contribute to the implementation of the UN Environment Assembly resolutions on marine litter and microplastics and several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including SDG 12, 13, 14 and 15. The Global Tourism Plastics Initiative does not aim to replace any potentially binding multilateral treaty process. UNEP, UNWTO and the Foundation call on all organisations in the tourism sector to join the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative by making the commitments and embark on a journey towards a circular economy for plastics.

HOW TO BECOME PART OF THE GLOBAL TOURISM PLASTICS INITIATIVE

For tour operators, travel agents, online travel agents and platforms[5] ("business signatories – tour operators, travel agents, online travel agents and platforms")

1. Endorse the common vision (see **Appendix II**).
2. Encourage partners in the supply chain and at destination level to join the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative.
3. Advice and guide partners in the supply chain and at destination level to better manage plastics in their operations through practices, criteria, standards and/or policies.
4. Communicate successes to partners, suppliers, travellers and key local stakeholders.
5. Publicly report annually on progress of the implementation of their own commitment to the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative.[6]

[Additional signatory packs for other types of business signatories are available here.]

Additional context for all signatories

None of the commitments above will, on its own, be sufficient to realise a circular economy for plastics. However, all of them contribute towards the common vision, and, collectively, they are an important and necessary step forward.

These commitments are considered a 'minimum bar' to sign up to the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative. All signatories are encouraged to:

1. Make more ambitious commitments
2. Make additional commitments that contribute to achieving the common vision
3. Make commitments beyond plastic packaging that extend to all packaging, and to all plastic items provided or dealt with
4. Submit targets to reduce the quantity of virgin plastics used as a result of the commitments above on elimination, reuse, and recycled content

Every 18 to 24 months, starting from the launch[7] of the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative the 'minimum bar' of commitments will be reviewed if appropriate and, where relevant and after consultation with signatories, raised to ensure the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative continues to represent true leadership.

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[5] This category of business signatories (tour operator, travel agents, online travel agents and platforms) includes companies which business model focuses on the sales of vacation packages. These are businesses which do not own accomodation or transport means and therefore have a relatively modest plastic footprint. For tour operators, travel agents, online travel agents and platforms which own accommodation or transport means, a tailored signatory packis available and shall be requested from the coordination team of Global Tourism Plastics.

[6] See section 2 for further details on reporting.

[7] The launch event at FITUR on January 22, 2020.

COMMITMENTS AND SIGNATURE

Please note that signatories must submit their commitments through the electronic form available online at https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/sustainable-tourism/gtpi. *This document contains all the sections that you will have to complete within the electronic form and has the main purpose to support your preparations beforehand.*

SECTION 1: INFORMATION AND DETAILS OF THE SIGNATORY

The following information will be requested by the electronic form. Note that all elements which have been marked with an asterix (*) are mandatory and must be completed:

Details of the organisation

1. * Official name of your organisation	
2. * How does your organisation want to be referenced in official communications around the GTPI?	
3. * Country of registration of your organisation	
4. * Date of registration of your organisation	
5. Is your organization registered as a MSME or as a large enterprise?[8]	
6. * Mission of your organisation (max. 150 words)	
7. * Website	
8. Twitter	
9. Facebook	
10. Linkedin	

Primary contact details

11. * Title	Select from the drop-down list
If other (please specify)	
12. *First name	
13. *Last name	
14. *Position	
15. *Email	
16. Skype ID	
17. Linkedin	

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[8] According to the OECD (see here), Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are non-subsidiary, independent firms which employ fewer than a given number of employees. This number varies across countries. The most frequent upper limit designating an SME is 250 employees, as in the European Union. However, some countries set the limit at 200 employees, while the United States considers SMEs to include firms with fewer than 500 employees.

Alternate contact details – Staff responsible for reporting

18. * Title	Select from the drop-down list
If other (please specify)	
19. *First name	
20. *Last name	
21. *Position	
22. *Email	
23. Skype ID	
24. Linkedin	

Alternate contact details – Staff responsible for communications

25. * Title	Select from the drop-down list
26. If other (please specify)	
27. *First name	
28. *Last name	
29. *Position	
30. *Email	
31. Skype ID	
32. Linkedin	

Scope of activities

33. * Please describe implemented activities/initiatives of your organisation that are related to the objectives of the Global Tourism Plastic Initiative (Max 150 words)	
34. * In which regions/countries do you mainly operate?	☐Global ☐Africa ☐Asia/Middle East ☐Europe ☐Latin America and the Caribbean ☐North America
If your operations are in specific countries (and/or municipalities), please list them below	

SECTION 2: COMMITMENT OF THE SIGNATORY

The following information will be requested by the electronic form:

1. We endorse the common vision (see **Appendix II**).

2. We commit to encourage partners in the supply chain and at destination level to join the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative.

Please explain concisely how you plan to achieve this, any milestones and timing for implementation

   2.1. Proposed quantitative target (e.g. no. of partners in the supply chain and at destination level that will join the GTPI by 2025; number of awareness raising activities or trainings implemented, etc.) (Optional)

Please specify your proposed target and associated indicator to be measured

   2.2. If relevant, target completion date for proposed target above (numbers only) (Optional)

   2022/ 2023/ 2024/ 2025

3. We commit to advice and guide partners in the supply chain and at destination level to better manage plastics in their operations through practices, criteria, standards and/or policies.

Please explain concisely how you plan to achieve this, any milestones and timing for implementation

4. We commit to communicate successes to partners, suppliers, travellers and key local stakeholders.

Tick yes

   Please tick the channels through which you will communicate your successes:

   - Social media
   - Newsletter
   - Website
   - Events
   - Case studies

Please explain concisely how you plan to achieve this, any milestones and timing for implementation

5. We commit to publicly report annually on progress of the implementation of our own commitment to the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative.

Please explain concisely how you plan to achieve this, any milestones and timing for implementation

This commitment is made by selecting the option which is applicable to your organisation. For businesses which are large enterprises (according to the definition of large enterprises in your country of registration)[9], reporting is mandatory on progress towards meeting the commitments in sections 2, 3 and 4 (in accordance with Appendix III and IV) and will be made public on the website of Global Tourism Plastics Initiative. For businesses which are micro, small and medium size enterprises (according to the definition of large enterprises in your country of registration), reporting is encouraged through their own reporting mechanisms and could be linked to the website of Global Tourism Plastics Initiative.

The commitment will read:
*-**For large businesses:** We commit to report to the One Planet Sustainable Tourism Programme annually on progress towards meeting the commitments in sections 2, 3 and 4 (in accordance with Appendix III and IV) and understand this information will be made public on the website of Global Tourism Plastics Initiative.*

*-**For micro, small and medium size businesses:** We commit to make public the progress towards meeting the commitments in sections 2, 3 and 4 (in accordance with Appendix III and IV) through our own reporting mechanisms and understand that we have the possibility to request that our progress reports are made visible on the website of Global Tourism Plastics Initiative.*

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[9] According to the OECD (see here), Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are non-subsidiary, independent firms which employ fewer than a given number of employees. This number varies across countries. The most frequent upper limit designating an SME is 250 employees, as in the European Union. However, some countries set the limit at 200 employees, while the United States considers SMEs to include firms with fewer than 500 employees.

SECTION 3: STATEMENT OF VERIFICATION AND SIGNATURE

The following information will be requested by the electronic form:

We hereby commit and agree:	• To implement the commitments detailed in section 2 of this form "Commitment of the signatory" • To subscribe the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative Terms and Conditions for Signatories available in Appendix I • To work in a collaborative and constructive spirit within the members of the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative • To disseminate information on the activities of the Initiative among our contacts and networks
We hereby confirm that:	• Our organisation does not violate sanctions established by the UN Security Council • Our organisation supports the core values and goals of the UN, UN Environment Programme and UNWTO • Our organization is not directly involved in the production of goods or the delivery of services or any other activity that could be opposed to the objectives or principles of the UN, UNEP or UNWTO, including but not limited to policies on Human Rights, Rights of Child and anti-personnel mines • Our organisation is not complicit in human rights abuses • Our organisation does not tolerate forced or compulsory labor or the use of child labor • Our organisation is not involved in the sale or manufacture of antipersonnel landmines or cluster bombs • Our organisation does not produce banned chemicals such as ozone depleting substances • Our organisation does not have a conflict of interest and /or any other legal encumbrances which would prevent it from entering into the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative or complying with the commitments we have made. If a conflict of interest and/or any other legal encumbrances arises or is likely to arise, it will immediately inform the UN Environment Programme and/or UNWTO • Our organization respects the laws of the country/ies in which it operates
☐I, the undersigned, as the authorized signatory, hereby confirm our organisation's commitment to the vision and objectives of the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative and declare that all statements made above are true and correct	
Name: Title: Entity: Place: Date:	
Please upload the logo of your entity	Choose File (Minimum 300 dpi)
Please add electronic signature to sign[10]	Choose File

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[10] It is strongly suggested for the commitment to be signed by C-Level Leadership or equivalent. The involvement of C-Level leadership as 'Single Point of Accountability', be it the CEO, COO, Chief of Procurement, or equivalent, will ensure a transformational and more ambitious engagement.

APPENDIX I - GLOBAL TOURISM PLASTICS INITIATIVE TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR SIGNATORIES (TOUR OPERATOR, TRAVEL AGENT, ONLINE TRAVEL AGENT AND PLATFORM SIGNATORIES)

UNEP and the UNWTO (within the framework of Sustainable Tourism Programme of the One Planet Network) are responsible for setting up and running the Global Tourism Plastic Initiative, and your relationship as a signatory is with them. The Ellen MacArthur Foundation is a strategic advisor in relation to the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative. References to "we", "us" and "our" in this document relate only UNEP and the UNWTO – no other entity is a party to this document.

Signing the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative allows you to step forward as a global leader working on solutions that address the root causes of plastic waste and pollution.

The completed Global Tourism Plastics Initiative form and Appendices II-V are incorporated in full as part of these terms, and it is important to read and understand them before signing the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative. The Global Tourism Plastics Initiative is between you and UNEP and UNWTO and does not give any benefit or right of enforcement to a third party.

What happens at time of signature?
The name and logo of your organisation:
- ○ will appear on the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative website and documents to show your organisation is a signatory of the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative;
- ○ will be used in connection with your organisation's progress towards the commitments it has made; and
- ○ may also appear on some of the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative's, One Planet Sustainable Tourism programme and/or UNEP, UNWTO and the Foundation's social media assets, press releases, and other communications material related to the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative.

We will:
- ○ publicly communicate about the commitments your organisation has made;
- ○ publicly report on your organisation's progress towards those commitments each calendar year, using the information your organisation has provided us with or (if your organisation does not fall within the definition of a "large business"[11] and chooses to report through its own website) which has been reported by you on your own website (including any optional explanatory information);
- ○ use the data your organisation provides us, to report on individual progress and/or on an aggregated, anonymised basis; and
- ○ share the information you provide with the Foundation in order that the Foundation may compare, analyse, aggregate and/or combine that information with information it has from signatories to the Global Commitment about progress, targets and commitments in each initiative. The results of this work will help to: facilitate transparency in the reporting; inform the review of the minimum bar of commitments; and produce a more cohesive picture of progress towards the common vision across both initiatives.

Your organisation will have the right to:
- ○ refer to the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative in order to show that it is a signatory, by using the following sentence: "We are a signatory of the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative led by UN Environment Programme and the World Tourism Organisation, in collaboration with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation";

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[11] According to the OECD (see here), Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are non-subsidiary, independent firms which employ fewer than a given number of employees. This number varies across countries. The most frequent upper limit designating an SME is 250 employees, as in the European Union. However, some countries set the limit at 200 employees, while the United States considers SMEs to include firms with fewer than 500 employees.

- ○ use the logo of the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative that we provide you with to accompany the statement. Your organisation shall not use this logo for any other purposes, nor shall you use any of our other logos or the UNEP or UNWTO or the Ellen MacArthur Foundation name, emblem or official seal (or any of the Foundation's other names or logos) for any other purposes, unless agreed in writing with these organisations in advance. All logo use must be in accordance with the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative's brand guidelines, a copy of which will be provided to your organisation following signature;
  - ○ after signing the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative you will receive a communications pack with a logo and other assets and language you can use to demonstrate you are a signatory.

Reporting

Large businesses must report progress to the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative each year. We strongly encourage all business signatories to report. Organisations that do not fall within the definition of a "large business"[12] may report on progress on its commitments each year on their own website or other directly owned channel.

The reporting of the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative is done through the online reporting platform of the One Planet Sustainable Tourism Programme. We rely on your organisation reporting information accurately, and in a timely fashion. The Global Tourism Plastics Initiative will not verify any data provided to us, nor will we audit your organisation. If your organisation does not report on time, this may be made clear in our public report. Non reporting, reporting incomplete information or reporting inaccurate information may be considered a material breach of these terms the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative, which may result in termination of your signatory status. Notwithstanding the foregoing, UNEP and the UNWTO acknowledge that signatories may initially need time to collect the relevant data and establish an appropriate reporting infrastructure regarding plastics used. This will be taken into consideration in any incomplete or non-reporting in the first 12 months of your signatory status.

While all reasonable efforts will be made to ensure the information your organisation provides us for public disclosure is reproduced accurately in our reports and communications, and we will correct any errors that are pointed out to us, neither UNEP, the UNWTO nor the Foundation will be liable for reporting any inaccurate or incomplete information about your organisation. In the event of an error in our reporting or communications, or in the information your organisation has provided to us, please contact us as soon as possible so that we can update our records.

Liability

You agree that, UNEP and the UNWTO and the Foundation have no liability and disclaim all warranties (express or implied) and shall not be liable in any circumstances to your organisation, whether in contract, tort (including negligence), breach of statutory duty, or otherwise arising in connection with the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative or our (or the Foundation's) reporting of the same, including for loss of profits, loss of sales, loss of business or revenue, business interruption, loss of anticipated savings, loss or corruption of data, loss of goodwill or reputation, or any indirect or consequential loss or damage. In the unlikely event that a dispute or claim between the parties arising out of this Global Tourism Plastics Initiative cannot be resolved amicably, it may be referred by any party to arbitration under the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Arbitration Rules then in force. The parties agree to be bound by any arbitration award rendered in accordance with this provision as the final adjudication of any dispute. The arbitration may, at the determination of the arbitrator, be conducted in two languages, but English must always be one of the languages used.

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[12] According to the OECD (see here), Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are non-subsidiary, independent firms which employ fewer than a given number of employees. This number varies across countries. The most frequent upper limit designating an SME is 250 employees, as in the European Union. However, some countries set the limit at 200 employees, while the United States considers SMEs to include firms with fewer than 500 employees. Large enterprises are those bigger than SMEs.

The Global Tourism Plastics Initiative, and Appendices, shall be governed by and construed in accordance with International Law. Your organisation agrees that progress towards the commitments is its responsibility, and the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative has no responsibility or liability for your organisation's ability to meet them.

Nothing in or relating to the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative, and Appendices, shall be deemed to represent a waiver of the Privileges and Immunities of UNEP and UNWTO.

Revised Minimum Bar of Commitments
Given the high-paced developments in the transition towards a circular economy for plastics, there is a risk that over time, the minimum bar will no longer reflect the leading standard. In order to continue to represent true leadership, we will review the 'minimum bar' of commitments that signatories need to meet to be part of the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative every 18 to 24 months from the date of its launch[13] and, where appropriate, raise them ("Revised Minimum Bar Commitments"). Any revision of the minimum bar will involve a consultation process with signatories (similar to how the minimum bar was defined initially). If and when this happens, existing signatories will be given a reasonable amount of time (depending on the type of amendments made to the minimum bar, but at least three months) to update their commitments to reflect the Revised Minimum Bar Commitments in order to remain part of the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative. Once they have been updated, signatories will continue to report progress against the Revised Minimum Bar of Commitments to the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative in the same way.

Confidentiality
By signing the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative, your organisation agrees to the publication of the information stated to be public, and provided under the reporting requirements. Where your organisation has agreed to make additional information public, that submitted information might also be published. You also agree to us sharing your information with the Foundation. We recognise that certain other information your organisation provides us with as a signatory may constitute confidential information. In relation to such information, your organisation agrees to explicitly state at the time you supply it whether or not it is confidential. We will only use your organisation's confidential information to the extent needed to carry out our work in relation to the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative. We will not otherwise use, disclose or duplicate your organisation's confidential information unless such use, disclosure, or duplication is:
   ○   authorised in writing (including by email) by your organisation; or
   ○   made to professional advisers or representatives who owe general duties of confidentiality.

Data Protection
To the extent we receive any personal data from your organisation, we will only use the same to enable the performance of its obligations in relation to this Global Tourism Plastics Initiative, following prior consultation with your organisation.

Leaving the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative
Creating a circular economy for plastics requires a concerted and long-term effort from all stakeholders. We hope that your organisation remains a signatory and an active participant in the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative until 31 December 2025. However, we recognise that in certain circumstances, signatory status will not be appropriate. In such circumstances, UNEP, UNWTO or your organisation may, following prior consultation between us and your organisation, terminate your organisation's signatory status on written notice (which includes email), providing justification for such termination.

Other than where the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative ceases to exist (which is dealt with below), upon termination of your signatory status, your organisation will no longer be required to report data to us and you will immediately stop all further use of the logo(s) and name(s) provided to you

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[13] The launch event at FITUR on January 22, 2020.

in connection with your signatory status. You will not hold yourself out as having any further association with us in connection with the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative or its subject matter.

Where the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative ceases to exist, the Foundation may request that your organisation signs the Foundation's Global Commitment, in which case your organisation agrees to do so*[14], and it will use the same or more ambitious commitments that were stated in the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative. Reporting would then be through the Global Commitment.

Translated versions
Where a translated version of the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative and its Appendices has been provided as a matter of courtesy to facilitate discussions and understanding, and any differences of interpretation arise between the different versions, you agree that the English version shall take precedence over a version in any other language.

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[14] The Global Commitment permits signatories to end their status at any time on giving written notice to the Foundation.

APPENDIX II – COMMON VISION

We, the signatories of the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative, endorse the common vision of a circular economy for plastics, where plastics never become waste, as provided by the Foundation's New Plastics Economy initiative. We recognise this common vision offers a root cause solution to plastic pollution with profound economic, environmental, and societal benefits.

Collectively, we will work towards this vision by meeting our individual commitments and collaborating within and beyond this coalition of signatories.

For plastic packaging and plastic items[15], specifically, we recognise a circular economy is defined by six characteristics:

1. **Elimination of problematic or unnecessary plastic packaging through redesign, innovation, and new delivery models is a priority**
   a. Plastics bring many benefits. At the same time, there are some problematic items on the market that need to be eliminated to achieve a circular economy, and sometimes, plastic packaging can be avoided altogether while maintaining utility.
2. **Reuse models are applied where relevant, reducing the need for single-use packaging**
   a. While improving recycling is crucial, we cannot recycle our way out of the plastics issues we currently face.
   b. Wherever relevant, reuse business models should be explored as a preferred 'inner loop', reducing the need for single-use plastic packaging.
3. **All plastic packaging is 100% reusable, recyclable, or compostable**
   a. This requires a combination of redesign and innovation in business models, materials, packaging design, and reprocessing technologies.
   b. Compostable plastic packaging is not a blanket solution, but rather one for specific, targeted applications.
4. **All plastic packaging is reused, recycled, or composted in practice**
   a. No plastics should end up in the environment. Landfill, incineration, and waste-to-energy are not part of the circular economy target state.
   b. Businesses producing, using and/or selling packaging have a responsibility beyond the design and use of their packaging, which includes contributing towards it being collected and reused, recycled, or composted in practice.
   c. Governments are essential in setting up effective collection infrastructure, facilitating the establishment of related self-sustaining funding mechanisms, and providing an enabling regulatory and policy landscape.
5. **The use of plastics is fully decoupled from the consumption of finite resources**
   a. This decoupling should happen first and foremost through reducing the use of virgin plastics (by way of dematerialisation, reuse, and recycling).
   b. Using recycled content is essential (where legally and technically possible) both to decouple from finite feedstocks and to stimulate demand for collection and recycling.
   c. Over time, remaining virgin inputs (if any) should switch to renewable feedstocks where proven to be environmentally beneficial and to come from responsibly managed sources.
   d. Over time, the production and recycling of plastics should be powered entirely by renewable energy.
6. **All plastic packaging is free of hazardous chemicals, and the health, safety, and rights of all people involved are respected**
   a. The use of hazardous chemicals in packaging and its manufacturing and recycling processes should be eliminated (if not done yet).

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[15] The common vision was drafted specifically for plastic packaging, but applies equally to 'non-durable plastic items' such as cutlery, straws, carrier bags and cups. These items are typically used briefly and often only once, ending up as waste shortly after its use. As such, there are strong similarities with to how plastic packaging is used and how it creates plastic pollution. The tourism sector uses many of these items and has indicated it wants to make commitments including these items.

   b. It is essential to respect the health, safety, and rights of all people involved in all parts of the plastics system, and particularly to improve worker conditions in informal (waste picker) sectors.

We recognise this common vision is the target state we seek over time, and acknowledge that realising it will require significant effort and investment. We also recognise the importance of taking a full life-cycle and systems perspective, aiming for better economic and environmental outcomes overall. Above all, we recognise the time to act is now.

APPENDIX III - REPORTING GUIDELINES (TOUR OPERATORS, TRAVEL AGENTS, ONLINE TRAVEL AGENTS AND PLATFORMS SIGNATORIES)

Reporting publicly on progress made against individual commitments is crucial to ensure transparency and credibility of the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative[16]. This appendix summarises the reporting requirements, which have been kept as straightforward as possible and the reporting process as simple as possible. Each year, more detailed reporting guidance will be provided as appropriate when the annual progress reporting request is sent.

1. Reporting process
Each calendar year until 2025 (inclusive), signatories are expected to report on progress against individual commitments, and on volumes. The process will be as follows:
   a. signatories will receive an annual reporting request;
   b. signatories will have a deadline by which they have to report back, which will be not less than two months from the date of the reporting request;
   c. acknowledging that reporting cycles differ from organisation to organisation, signatories will be able to report based on the latest completed year for which they have data;
   d. where information provided is unclear, or incomplete, additional clarification details may be requested and your organisation agrees to provide this information as soon as possible.

2. Reporting against individual commitments
All reporting should be in line with definitions in **Appendix IV** of the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative. If anything is unclear, please do check with the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative Coordinating Team.

The general information and current minimum reporting requirements for all signatories are set out below. In order to help facilitate transparency in the data reported, and best demonstrate progress towards the targets, the reporting requirements may be changed from time to time. Each year, you will be provided with a detailed guidance outlining the mandatory and voluntary requirements to reporting on progress for that year.

2.1 General information for all signatories
   a. Provide information about the reporting period
   b. Indicate whether or not the data was verified or audited
   c. Provide the name of the person signing off on the submitted data
   d. Confirm the submitted data covers the full scope of your activities

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[16] We strongly encourage all signatories to report. Tour operators, travel agents, online travel agents and platforms that do not fall within the definition of a "large business" (according to the definition of MSMEs in their place of registration) may report on progress on its commitments each year on their own website or other directly owned channel. Tour operators, travel agents, online travel agents and platforms falling under this signatory pack are not expected to report on volumes.

APPENDIX IV - COMMON DEFINITIONS FOR THE GLOBAL TOURISM PLASTIC INITIATIVE
(extracted and adapted from the Ellen MacArthur Foundation's "New Plastic Economy Global Commitment")

Table of contents

Global Tourism Plastics Initiative

1. Introduction

The Global Tourism Plastics Initiative contains terms such as 'reusable', 'recyclable', 'compostable', 'renewable' and 'recycled content'. This appendix provides common definitions to underpin it, aiming to provide transparency and consistency. Signatories of the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative agree to use and refer to this terminology as a basis for their commitments and related reporting on progress.

Definitions are shown in boxes and often include footnotes with clarification. Additional notes below the definitions provide more context and/or examples.

This appendix is extracted and adapted from the Ellen MacArthur Foundation's "New Plastic Economy Global Commitment", and is built on an extensive review of existing definitions, detailed discussions with dozens of experts, and a broad stakeholder review process involving over 100 organisations and experts across businesses, governments, NGOs, academics and standard-setting organisations. This appendix builds on ISO definitions where possible and relevant.[17] Next to packaging, this appendix includes plastic items that are non-durable, such as straws, cutlery and cups. These items are typically used briefly and often only once, and ending up as waste shortly after its use. As such, there are strong similarities to how plastic packaging is used and how it also creates plastic pollution.

Many of the definitions here could also be applicable outside the context of the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative, although some (e.g. 'recyclable') do remain inherently context dependent. Although most principles and some terms defined in this appendix could apply to all plastics and/or all packaging, this appendix focuses on common definitions for plastic packaging.

2. Take action to eliminate problematic or unnecessary plastic packaging and items

In order to achieve a circular economy for plastics, it is important to carefully consider what plastic is provided in the first place. This commitment recognises that principle, and signals the intent of companies to actively identify problematic and unnecessary plastic packaging in their portfolio and to take action to eliminate those through redesign, innovation, and new (reuse) delivery models.

The importance of eliminating problematic and unnecessary items is already widely recognised in multiple businesses' packaging strategies, in the European Commission's minimum requirements for packaging and in its '*Strategy for plastics in a circular economy*', in the G7 Ocean Plastics Charter, and in the UK Plastics Pact, which includes this commitment and has been signed by over 90 organisations.

The following list of criteria is provided to help identify problematic or unnecessary plastic packaging, plastic packaging components and items:
1. It is not reusable, recyclable or compostable (as per the definitions below).
2. It contains, or its manufacturing requires, hazardous chemicals[18] that pose a significant risk to human health or the environment (applying the precautionary principle).
3. It can be avoided (or replaced by a reuse model) while maintaining utility.
4. It hinders or disrupts the recyclability or compostability of other items.
5. It has a high likelihood of being littered or ending up in the natural environment.

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[17] Permission to reproduce extracts from British Standards is granted by BSI Standards Limited (BSI). No other use of this material is permitted. British Standards can be obtained in PDF or hard copy formats from the BSI online shop: www.bsigroup.com/Shop

[18] Hazardous chemicals are those that show intrinsically hazardous properties: persistent, bio-accumulative and toxic (PBT); very persistent and very bio-accumulative (vPvB); carcinogenic, mutagenic, and toxic for reproduction (CMR); endocrine disruptors (ED); or equivalent concern, not just those that have been regulated or restricted in other regions (Source: Roadmap to Zero, definition based on EU REACH regulation - http://www.roadmaptozero.com/).

The elimination and/or replacement by alternatives should happen with a system's perspective, taking into account impacts on the entire (packaging and packaged goods) system and avoiding unintended consequences.

Businesses are encouraged to extend this commitment beyond plastic packaging to all packaging and plastic items they put on the market.

3. Take action to move from single-use towards reuse models

Reuse models are the preferred 'inner loop' wherever relevant, and beneficial, since it retains the most value in the system. New (information) technologies, innovative business models, and evolving use patterns are unlocking and facilitating new reuse opportunities. This has the potential to significantly reduce the need for single-use packaging. See the definition of reusable packaging in Section 4.1.

Businesses are encouraged to extend this commitment beyond plastic packaging to all packaging and plastic items they put on the market.

4. 100% of plastic packaging to be reusable, recyclable, or compostable

In a circular economy, waste and pollution are designed out, products and materials are kept in use, and natural systems are regenerated. Each system, service, product or packaging item needs to be designed to fit such an economy. This means that each piece of (plastic) packaging is either recyclable or compostable[19,20], ideally after several reuse cycles:
   a) Reuse is the preferred 'inner loop' wherever relevant and beneficial.
   b) All packaging should be designed to be recycled (mechanically or chemically) or (where relevant for specific, targeted applications, not as a blanket solution) composted to keep the materials in the economy or return them safely to the biosphere, preferably after going through a number of reuse cycles.

100% reusable, recyclable, or compostable plastic packaging commitments are important, as the circularity of a packaging item starts with its design. In some cases, existing solutions are available and proven to be viable; in others, further innovation in business models, packaging designs, collection, sorting, and recycling technologies will be required to achieve this commitment in a viable way that avoids unintended consequences.

4.1 Reusable packaging

Reuse

> Definition: Reuse of packaging
> Operation by which packaging is refilled or used for the same purpose for which it was conceived, with or without the support of auxiliary products (1) present on the market, enabling the packaging to be refilled.

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[19] Organic recycling includes composting and anaerobic digestion. Along with composting, anaerobic digestion can also be considered as a circular after-use pathway for plastics packaging, in line with ISO 18606. However, as the Foundation believes the use of anaerobic digestion is currently limited for plastic packaging as at the date of publication, this appendix focuses on composting. For some very specific applications, biodegradation or dissolving of packaging (e.g. edible packaging, dishwasher tablet packaging) can also be considered part of a circular system for plastic packaging, and counted towards achieving this commitment, if proven that the entire biodegradation process takes places within a reasonable timeframe in all environmental conditions where it is likely to end up.

[20] Or both recyclable and compostable. While the Foundation believes (based on research conducted to date) that no compostable plastic packaging is currently recycled at sufficient scale to be also 'recyclable' according to the definitions in this appendix, certain plastic packaging that is compostable and could technically be recycled has been developed, such as packaging made with PLA, PBS or PHA. It is important for packaging aimed to be recycled and packaging aimed to be composted to be separated, so the material streams do not contaminate each other.

Source: ISO 18603:2013, *Packaging and the environment - Reuse*, modified (clarification in note 1 below).

Note
1. An auxiliary product is a product used to support the refilling/loading of reusable packaging. (...) An example of an auxiliary product is a detergent pouch used to refill a reusable container at home (ISO 18603). As per ISO 18603, auxiliary products that are one-way products (i.e. designed to be used once) are not considered reusable packaging.

Further explanatory notes
a. Attention should be paid to the intended use and function of the packaging, in order to verify whether it is being reused for the same purpose or a secondary use. In the latter case the packaging is not considered as reusable packaging (ISO 18603, '*Packaging used for the same purpose*'), e.g. the use of a package as a pen-holder or as decoration cannot be qualified as reuse.
b. A package is considered reusable if the design of the packaging enables the principal components to accomplish a number of trips or rotations in normally predictable conditions of use (ISO 18603). According to ISO 18601, a packaging component is a part of packaging that can be separated by hand or by using simple physical means (e.g. a cap, a lid, a (non in-mould) label).

Examples
Packaging can be reused in different ways:
● Business-to-business applications: packaging is reused through a redistribution system between one or more companies[21] (e.g. pallets loaded with the same or different product,[22] crates, pallet wraps)
● Business-to-consumer applications: packaging returned to the supplier or a third party to be cleaned and reused for the distribution and sale of an identical or similar product (e.g. a container that is part of a deposit return or refund system for reuse, a returnable transportation packaging item, a reusable container in the food service industry) or packaging not returned to the supplier, but instead reused by the user as a container or as a dispenser for the same product supplied by the manufacturer for the same purpose (such as a reusable spray bottle for cleaning products for which the manufacturer provides refills).
● The booklet 'Reuse - rethinking plastics', created by the Foundation, offers a framework to understand reuse models, identification of six major benefits of reuse, and mapping of 69 reuse business examples.

Reusable packaging

Definition: Reusable packaging
Packaging which has been designed to accomplish or proves its ability to accomplish a minimum number of trips or rotations (1,2) in a system for reuse (3,4).

Source: ISO 18603:2013 - *Packaging and the environment - Reuse,* modified (packaging component mentioned in notes)

Notes
1. A trip is defined as transfer of packaging, from filling/loading to emptying/unloading. A rotation is defined as a cycle undergone by reusable packaging from filling/loading to filling/loading (ISO 18603).

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[21] ISO 18603:2013, '*Closed-loop system*'/'*Open-loop system*' definitions: Reuse can take place within a company or a cooperating group of companies (closed-loop) or amongst unspecified companies (open-loop).
[22] ISO 18603:2013, '*Packaging used for the same purpose*' definition: Reuse of pallets, loaded originally with dairy products and now loaded with house bricks is reuse for the same purpose.

2. The minimum number of trips or rotations refers to the fact that the 'system for reuse' in place should be proven to work in practice, i.e. that a significant share of the package is actually reused (measured e.g. by an average reuse rate or an average number of use-cycles per package).
3. A system for reuse is defined as established arrangements (organisational, technical or financial) which ensure the possibility of reuse, in closed-loop, open-loop or in a hybrid system (ISO 18603).
4. See above for the definition of reuse, which stresses amongst other things the need for the packaging to be refilled or used again for the same purpose for which it was conceived.

Further explanatory notes

a. For a container to qualify as reusable, there needs to be a 'system for reuse' in place that enables the user of the package to ensure it is reused in practice where the item is placed on the market. Such a system for reuse should be able to prove a significant actual reuse rate, or average number of use-cycles of a package, in normal conditions of use.
b. A package is considered reusable if the design of the packaging enables the principal components to accomplish a number of trips or rotations in normally predictable conditions of use (ISO 18603:2013).
c. According to ISO 18601, a packaging component is a part of packaging that can be separated by hand or by using simple physical means[23] (e.g. a cap, a lid, a (non in-mould) label).
d. Single-use packaging (i.e. designed to be used once) aimed at delivering a refill for a reusable package is not considered reusable packaging.
e. A reusable item can undergo reconditioning, that is operations necessary to restore a reusable packaging to a functional state for further reuse (ISO 18603:2013).
f. Reusable packaging should be designed to be recyclable, as it will inevitably reach the maximum number of reuse cycles at some point, after which recycling ensures the material is kept in the economy.

4.2 Recyclable packaging

Recycling
References to 'recycling' in this appendix always refer to 'material recycling'.

Definition: Material recycling
Reprocessing, by means of a manufacturing process, of a used packaging material into a product, a component incorporated into a product, or a secondary (recycled) raw material; excluding energy recovery and the use of the product as a fuel.

Source: ISO 18604:2013 - *Packaging and the environment — Material recycling,* modified (note to entry not applicable).

Further explanatory notes

a. This includes both mechanical (maintaining polymer structure) and chemical (breaking down polymer structure into more basic building blocks, e.g. via chemical or enzymatic processes) recycling processes.
b. It explicitly excludes technologies that do not reprocess materials back into materials but instead into fuels or energy.
Chemical recycling can be considered in line with a circular economy if the technology is used to create feedstock that is then used to produce new materials. However, if these same processes are used for plastics-to-energy or plastics-to-fuel applications, these activities cannot be considered as recycling (according to ISO definitions), nor as part of a

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[23] ISO 18601:2013, Packaging component definition.

circular economy. For a chemical recycling process, just like for the production of virgin plastics, no hazardous chemicals[24] should be used that pose a significant risk to human health or the environment, applying the precautionary principle.

c. A high quality of recycling and of recycled materials is essential in a circular economy, where one aim is to keep materials at their highest utility at all times. This maximises the value retained in the economy, the range of possible applications for which the material can be used, and the number of possible future life-cycles. It therefore minimises material losses and the need for virgin material input.

- Maximising the quality and value of materials during recycling is made possible through a combination of packaging design and high-quality collection, sorting, cleaning, and recycling technologies and systems.
- On the design side, organisations such as APR, PRE, EPBP, RECOUP and others have design-for-recyclability guidelines for plastic packaging that, as well as recyclability, often indicate the quality of the recycled output (e.g. through traffic light systems or classifications such as 'preferred for recycling' versus 'detrimental for recycling').

Recyclable packaging

Recyclability is perhaps the most ambiguous term amongst all packaging circularity terminology. 'Recyclable' means different things to different people in different contexts.

In the context of the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative, where the term 'recyclable' is used for commitments by businesses that provide packaging, 'technically recyclable'[25] is clearly not enough: recycling does not just need to work in a lab. Instead it should be proven that packaging can be recycled in practice and at scale.

'At scale' means that the proof needs to be more than a lab test, a pilot, or a single small region. It means that recycling of a certain packaging type needs to be proven to work in practice in multiple regions, collectively representing a significant geographical area in terms of population size, ideally across different country and city archetypes. This to indicate that the recycling in practice is replicable, and that the design of the packaging is not the barrier to realise recycling in practice in other countries.

'In practice' means that within each of these regions, the recycling system (end-to-end system from consumer to recycled material) effectively recycles a significant share of all packaging of that type put on the market. In other words, in that area a significant recycling rate is achieved for that type of packaging.

Moving towards only using 'recyclable' packaging as described above is a necessary first step, but is one that should happen in conjunction with other efforts to ensure all packaging is actually recycled in practice in every market where it is used.

> Definition: Recyclable packaging
> A packaging (1) or packaging component (2,3) is recyclable if its successful post-consumer (4) collection, sorting, and recycling (5) is proven to work in practice and at scale (7).
>
> **Notes**
> 1. In the context of a 2025 timeframe and the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative, a package can be considered recyclable if its main packaging components, together

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[24] As defined in Appendix V.

[25] Technical recyclability considers the technical possibility to recycle a package, but does not take into account if the collection, sorting, and recycling of the package happens in practice, at scale, and with reasonable economics (e.g. it could work in a lab or in one (pilot) facility but not be economically viable to replicate at scale). Therefore, such a definition does not directly correlate to what is actually recycled in practice, and it would result in almost all packaging being considered 'recyclable'.

representing >95% of the entire packaging weight, are recyclable according to the above definition, and if the remaining minor components are compatible with the recycling process and do not hinder the recyclability of the main components. Otherwise, only the recyclable components of a package (or the recyclable parts of components - see footnote 3) can be counted towards achieving this commitment, and only when other components do not hinder or contaminate their recyclability.

Examples:
- If a bottle and its cap are recyclable, the packaging can be claimed to be recyclable if it has a label (<5% of total weight) that does not hinder the recyclability of the bottle and cap.
- If that same bottle has a label that hinders or contaminates the recycling of the bottle and cap, the entire packaging is non-recyclable.
- If a package has (a) certain component(s) that are not recyclable and that make up >5% of the total packaging weight (e.g. 12%) and that do not hinder or contaminate the recycling of the remaining recyclable components of the package, then only that recyclable part (e.g. 88%) can be counted towards this commitment.

Longer-term, the aim should be for all packaging components (e.g. including labels) to be recyclable according to the above definition.

2. A packaging component is a part of packaging that can be separated by hand or by using simple physical means (ISO 18601), e.g. a cap, a lid and (non in-mould) labels.

3. A packaging component can only be considered recyclable if that entire component, excluding minor incidental constituents (6), is recyclable according to the definition above. If just one material of a multi-material component is recyclable, one can only claim recyclability of that material, not of the component as a whole (in line with US FTC Green Guides[26] and ISO 14021).

4. ISO 14021 defines post-consumer material as material generated by households or by commercial, industrial and institutional facilities in their role as end users of the product which can no longer be used for its intended purpose. This includes returns of material from the distribution chain. It excludes pre-consumer material (e.g. production scrap).

5. Packaging for which the *only* proven way of recycling is recycling into applications that do not allow any further use-cycles (e.g. plastics-to-roads) cannot be considered 'recyclable packaging'.

6. ISO 18601:2013: A packaging constituent is a part from which packaging or its components are made and which cannot be separated by hand or by using simple physical means (e.g. a layer of a multi-layered pack or an in-mould label).

7. The suggested test and threshold to assess if the recyclability of a packaging design is proven 'in practice and at scale' is: Does that packaging achieve a 30% post-consumer recycling rate in multiple regions[27], collectively representing at least 400 million inhabitants? A possible alternative, especially relevant for more local players, is to check if a 30% post-consumer recycling rate is achieved in all the markets where your packaging is sold. The above thresholds might be reviewed over time as more data becomes available.

Further explanatory notes

a. By being based on the principle that recycling needs to be proven to work in practice and at scale, the definition requires the entire system to be proven to work: material choices, packaging design, the manufacturing process, the most likely way of using, disposing and collecting the packaging, and the availability, compatibility, and performance of infrastructure for collection, sorting and recycling. It also implicitly requires the system to

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[26] US Federal Trade Commission (2012), Guides for the Use of Environmental Marketing Claims ("Green Guides"), Part 260.
[27] Regions can be any geographic area (countries, states, provinces, ...), anywhere in the world.

work technically, conveniently (if it works in practice and at scale, it must be convenient enough for actors in the system to participate) and economically (if it works in practice and at scale, it must be that the economics are reasonable and that there are end markets for the resulting material).

b. By being based on the principle that recycling needs to work in practice and at scale, the definition of recyclable packaging allows for innovation. A packaging item that is not currently recyclable could be so in future (e.g. by putting in place effective collection, sorting and recycling technologies at scale).

c. It is important to assess the recyclability of each package separately, taking into account its design, manufacturing processes and most likely way of using, disposing and collecting it, which all have a significant impact on the possibility and probability of the package being recycled in practice. For example:

- Design: For example, choices of materials, the shape and size of the packaging, additives and colourants, glues, inks, caps, labels.
- Manufacturing process: For example, sometimes additives are added to facilitate the manufacturing process or residual amounts of catalysts or other products end up in the packaging during the manufacturing process.
- Most likely way of using and disposing: One should assume the most likely way of using and disposing of the packaging and not assume unlikely conditions. For example, in most countries one cannot assume that a significant share of households will disassemble packaging before disposing of it. Other questions to consider include: Would the package be disposed most often with or without the label or cap still attached? Would it most likely be disposed of empty and clean, or contaminated with product residues, glue or lid residues?
- Most likely way of collecting: Is the pack most likely to end up in a collection system for business-to-business bulk materials or in that for household materials? A package could be recycled in practice and at scale in business-to-business but not in business-to-consumer applications (e.g. PE pallet wraps usually end up in different collection systems than PE wraps around consumer products).

d. While the definition does not specify where a package is recycled (i.e. allowing for the export and import of materials), businesses should ensure any exported packaging actually gets recycled before considering the recycling pathway to work in practice.

e. The available technical design-for-recycling guidelines by organisations such as APR, PRE, EPBP, RECOUP and others bring a more technical and in-depth analysis of design for recycling prerequisites. As such, these guidelines are complementary to the 'recyclable' definition of this appendix, and businesses are encouraged to refer to and apply these design-for-recyclability guidelines.

The thresholds to assess if the recyclability of a packaging design is proven 'in practice and at scale' (i.e. the 30% post-consumer recycling rate in multiple regions[28], collectively representing at least 400 million inhabitants - see note 7 in recyclability definition box) are not intended to be achieved *today*, but aim to define an ambitious yet realistic target to reach by 2025. Please see Appendix V outlining a suggested methodology for the assessment of recyclability of plastic packaging, but note that for signatories of the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative, this assessment is currently not required to undertake.

The 'recyclable' definition above applies at a global level for global commitments: it is a characteristic of packaging and is not linked to any local context or specific geographical area. As such, this definition does not apply to claims linked to specific geographical areas (e.g. on-pack recycling labels, customer communications), as these should always take into account the local context and systems in place (in line with ISO 14021 and US FTC), and be in line with the local regulations that apply to such claims.

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[28] Regions can be any geographic area (countries, states, provinces, ...), anywhere in the world

Finally, it is important to stress once more that, while the commitment to make all packaging recyclable by 2025, according to the definition above, is a necessary first step, it is not an end goal in itself. The target state to aim for is one in which all packaging is actually recycled in all markets where it is put on the market (ideally after several reuse cycles and not including some targeted applications where compostability might be the preferred solution).

4.3. Compostable packaging

In a circular economy, all (plastic) packaging should be designed to be recyclable, or where relevant compostable[29] (or both)[30], ideally after several reuse cycles. As designing packaging for recycling comes with the advantage of keeping the value of the material in the economy, it is in many cases preferred over designing for composting. However, the latter can be valuable for targeted applications where considered appropriate and beneficial, if coupled with the relevant collection and composting infrastructure to ensure it gets composted in practice.

These targeted applications include packaging items for which composting offers a mechanism to return biological nutrients from the product the packaging contains, which would otherwise have been lost, back to the soil in the form of fertiliser or soil improver. Examples could include tea bags, compostable bags for compost collection in cities, or packaging materials that often end up in organic waste streams (e.g. fruit/vegetable labels). Applications for which compostable plastic packaging is used are ideally harmonised across the industry and clearly indicated, to avoid cross-contamination of compostable and recyclable material streams.

Recognising that compostable plastic packaging is not a blanket solution but rather one for specific, targeted applications, shifting to compostable packaging where reusable and/or recyclable alternatives would be preferred purely to achieve a commitment is not in line with the common vision and intention of the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative.

Compostable packaging needs to go hand in hand with appropriate collection and composting infrastructure in order for it to be composted in practice. Therefore, when claiming compostability in the context of a specific geographical area (e.g. on-pack recycling labels, public communications), it is important to take into account the local context and available systems in place as outlined in ISO 14021, and be in line with the local regulations that apply to such claims.[31] Composting can take place in an industrial facility, following a controlled process managed by professionals, as well as in a collective or at home, where the process is subject to the householder's skills and other environmental conditions. The terms 'composting' and 'compostable' as referred to in this appendix mainly refer to industrial composting.

Composting

Definition: Composting
Aerobic process designed to produce compost.

Note 1 to entry: Compost is a soil conditioner obtained by biodegradation of a mixture consisting principally of vegetable residues, occasionally with other organic material and having a limited mineral content.

Source: ISO 472:2013, *Plastics - Vocabulary*.

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[29] Organic recycling includes composting and anaerobic digestion. Along with composting, anaerobic digestion can also be considered as a circular after-use pathway for plastics packaging, in line with ISO 18606. However, as the Foundation believes the use of anaerobic digestion is currently limited for plastic packaging as at the date of publication, this appendix focuses on composting.

[30] While the Foundation believes (based on research conducted to date) that no compostable plastic packaging is currently recycled at sufficient scale to be also 'recyclable' according to the definitions in this appendix, certain plastic packaging that is compostable and could technically be recycled, has been developed, such as packaging made with PLA, PBS and PHA. It is important for packaging aimed to be recycled and packaging aimed to be composted to be separated, so the material streams do not contaminate each other.

[31] See note d. under "compostable packaging" definition.

Further explanatory note
a. Composting can take place in an industrial facility, a collective, or at home:[32]
   ○ Industrial composting: Municipal or industrial composting is a professionally managed and controlled, aerobic thermophilic waste treatment process covered by international standards and certification schemes, which results in compost, a valuable soil improver.[33]
   ○ Home composting: Designing packaging so that it is home-compostable means it adheres to more stringent conditions than industrially compostable packaging and increases the range of possible composting processes (both industrial and home composting). The home-composting process remains subject to the variability of householders' skills and experience, and the final product is not standardised.

Compostable packaging

Compostability is a characteristic of packaging or of a product, not of a material. As testing standards require packaging to disintegrate and biodegrade in a certain time frame, compostability is influenced not only by the material choice but also by, for example, the format, the dimensions, and usage of inks and colourants. For example, while a thin PLA film might be compostable, a solid block of the exact same material might not degrade fast enough to be considered compostable.

Care should therefore be taken when claiming 'compostability' for a material. When materials are referred to as compostable, it most often means that the material could be used to produce compostable items or packaging. It does not mean that all items produced using this material are compostable.

Similar to how recyclability is defined, also for compostability the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative moves beyond 'technical compostability' (i.e. meeting relevant international compostability standards) to compostability proven to work in practice and at scale.

Definition: Compostable packaging
A packaging or packaging component (1) is compostable if it is in compliance with relevant international compostability standards (2) and if its successful post-consumer (3) collection, (sorting), and composting is proven to work in practice and at scale (4).

Notes
1. ISO 18601:2013: A packaging component is a part of packaging that can be separated by hand or by using simple physical means (e.g. a cap, a lid and (non in-mould) labels).
2. Including ISO 18606, ISO 14021, EN13432, ASTM D-6400 and AS4736.
3. ISO 14021's usage of term clarifies post-consumer material as material generated by households or by commercial, industrial and institutional facilities in their role as end users of the product which can no longer be used for its intended purpose. This includes returns of material from the distribution chain.
4. 'At scale' implies that there are significant and relevant geographical areas, as measured by population size, where the packaging is actually composted in practice.

Further explanatory notes
a. As per ISO 18606, a package is industrially compostable if it meets the following criteria:
   ● Characterisation: identification and characterisation of components prior to testing;
   ● Biodegradation: conversion of at least 90% of organic carbon to CO_2 within 26

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[32] Along with composting, anaerobic digestion can also be considered as a circular after-use pathway for plastic packaging, in line with ISO 18606. However, as the Foundation believes the use of anaerobic digestion is currently limited for plastics packaging as at the date of publication, this appendix focuses on composting.
[33] European Bioplastics, Factsheet *Bioplastics – Industry standards & labels, Relevant standards and labels for bio-based and biodegradable plastics* (2017).

weeks under controlled composting conditions (at +58°C +/-2°C);

- ● Disintegration: disintegration is considered satisfactory if within 12 weeks under controlled composting conditions, no more than 10% of the original dry mass of a package remains in the oversize fraction after sieving through a 2,0 mm sieve (at +58°C +/-2°C)
  - ○ Compost quality: the compost obtained at the end of the process does not cause any negative effects;
  - ○ Maximum concentration of regulated metals: it does not exceed a given concentration. of regulated heavy metals and other substances hazardous to the environment.

b. As per ISO 18606, a package is considered compostable only if all the individual components of the package meet the compostability requirements specified. If the components can be easily, physically separated before disposal, then the physically separated components can be individually considered for composting.

c. Compostable plastic can be composted in a municipal or industrial facility as well as, if it is designed to be home compostable, in a collective or at home as a complementary after-use option where relevant - *see 'Composting' definition*.

d. In line with ISO 14021 and US FTC Green claims, a marketer should clearly qualify compostability claims to the extent necessary to avoid deception, e.g. taking into account if one component is not compostable or if the item cannot be composted safely or in a timely manner in a home compost pile or device. For example, the US FTC Green guide states: "§ 260.7 Compostable Claims: "*To avoid deception about the limited availability of municipal or institutional composting facilities, a marketer should clearly and prominently qualify compostable claims if such facilities are not available to a substantial majority of consumers or communities where the item is sold*."

e. This 'compostable' definition applies at a global level for global commitments: it is a characteristic of packaging and is not linked to any local context or specific geographical area. It does not imply that it will be composted in every geographic area where it is put on the market. Local context and available infrastructure should be taken into account when claiming compostability in a specific geographic area.

In line with how 'recyclability proven in practice and at scale' was defined, the suggested test and threshold to assess if the compostability of a packaging is proven to work 'in practice and at scale' is: Does that packaging achieve a 30% post-consumer composting rate in multiple regions[34], collectively representing at least 400 million inhabitants? A possible alternative, especially relevant for more local players, is to check if a 30% post-consumer composting rate is achieved in all the markets where your packaging is sold. The above thresholds might be reviewed over time as more data becomes available.

These thresholds are not intended to be achieved today, but aim to define an ambitious yet realistic target to reach by 2025. Please refer to **Appendix V** for an assessment methodology for the compostability of packaging.

Please note: The term 'biodegradable' should not be confused with 'compostable'. 'Biodegradability' designates a property which is needed - among others - to make a package compostable. It does not indicate whether a plastic package can in practice be collected and composted following a managed process (e.g. how quickly and under what conditions it can biodegrade).

5. Take action to increase the use of recycled content across all plastic packaging and items used

In a circular economy, products and components are to be made from as much recycled content as possible (where legally and technically possible). This enables a reduced dependence on virgin

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[34] Regions can be any geographic area (countries, states, provinces, ...), anywhere in the world (independent of where your organisation is based).

(fossil) feedstocks, and creates a demand-pull for recycled plastics, sending a clear signal stimulating investments in the collection, sorting, and recycling industry.

It is important that industries with requirements for high-quality materials, such as the packaging industry, maximise the use of recycled content (keeping in mind regulatory constraints, such as food contact and health and safety regulations). Firstly, because keeping materials at their highest utility and value at all times maximises the number of possible future use-cycles of the material. Secondly, because if all plastics were to be recycled with significant quality or value loss - for example if all plastic packaging were to be recycled into lower-quality applications - the '*high-quality industries'* such as packaging would remain dependent on continuous virgin material input[35].

As part of the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative, recycled content commitments aim to increase the use of post-consumer recycled content (as defined below).

Definition: Post-consumer recycled content

Proportion, by mass, of post-consumer (1) recycled material in a product or packaging.

Note
1. ISO14021's usage of term clarifies post-consumer material as material generated by households or by commercial, industrial and institutional facilities in their role as end users of the product which can no longer be used for its intended purpose. This includes returns of material from the distribution chain.

Source: ISO 14021:2016 modified, *Environmental labels and declarations — Self-declared environmental claims (Type II environmental labelling), Usage of terms,* modified (focus on post-consumer recycled material)

Further explanatory notes
  a. While in a circular economy it is encouraged that pre-consumer waste is kept in the system, the priority is to avoid such pre-consumer waste as part of an efficient production process. Recycled content commitments as part of the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative therefore exclude pre-consumer recycled content (ISO 14021, *Usage of terms, Recycled content:* Pre-consumer recycled content includes materials diverted from the waste stream during a manufacturing process).
  b. Transparency on the nature of the recycled content (i.e. post-consumer versus pre-consumer) is to be ensured whenever possible.
  c. As referred to in ISO 14021, the percentage of recycled material (by weight) shall be mentioned when a claim of recycled content is made, separately stating the percentage of recycled content used in products and packaging, without aggregating it.
  d. Amounts and quality of packaging made out of recycled content should be in line with relevant food contact and health and safety regulations where a packaging is put on the market.
  e. To verify or certify the use of recycled content, various verification systems from different assurance bodies exist.

6. Increase the share of renewable content from responsibly managed sources

As fossil feedstocks cannot be regenerated in any reasonable timescale, their extraction and use is a linear process and can therefore not be part of a long-term solution. Moving towards a circular economy for plastic packaging includes, over time, decoupling from finite (fossil) feedstocks. This is achieved first and foremost by drastically reducing the need for virgin plastics through dematerialisation, reuse and recycling, and then, over time, by switching the remaining virgin inputs

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[35] Virgin materials are materials that have not been previously used or subjected to processing other than for their original production. In the context of plastic, plastic that is not produced from post-consumer or pre-consumer recycled material.

(if any) to renewable feedstocks where this is proven to come from responsibly managed sources and to be environmentally beneficial.

In order to avoid unintended consequences it is important to ensure for all renewable feedstock responsible sourcing and regenerative agricultural principles are applied (taking into account the impacts of the agricultural processes, including land use, and any impact on food security and biodiversity).

To the Foundation's knowledge, as at the date of publication, no comprehensive and widely accepted definition, standard or certification scheme for responsibly managed sources exists. Their development is encouraged to ensure a clear framework for related commitments and actions.

Definition: Renewable material

Material that is composed of biomass[36] from a living source and that can be continually replenished. When claims of renewability are made for virgin materials, those materials shall come from sources that are replenished at a rate equal to or greater than the rate of depletion.

Source: ISO 14021:2016, *Environmental labels and declarations — Self-declared environmental claims (Type II environmental labelling) - Sections 7.14.1. Usage of term and 7.14.2. Qualifications.*

Further explanatory note
  a. ISO 14021: "An unqualified claim of renewability shall only be made when the product consists of 100% renewable material, allowing for de minimis amounts of non-renewable materials being contained in that material. Otherwise, renewability claims shall be qualified as follows:
  a) where a claim of renewable material content is made, the percentage by mass of renewable material to the total mass shall be stated;
  b) the percentage of renewable material content (mass fraction) for products and packaging shall be separately stated and shall not be aggregated."

Definition: Renewable content

Proportion, by mass, of renewable material in a product or packaging.

Further explanatory notes
  a. The assessment of "renewable content" is done either through the direct measurement of biomass or bio-based carbon content in a product, or by a calculation. As plastic producing facilities sometimes use both fossil and renewable feedstocks at the same time, a certified mass balance approach could be applied to calculate and certify renewable content.
  b. Renewable content can be made from bio-based materials (biomass or biogenic carbon), although it should be noted that bio-based materials are not always renewable.
  c. Claims made on renewable content (biomass content, bio-based carbon content) should only be made in relation to the total mass or total carbon in the product.
  d. Amounts and quality of packaging made out of renewable content should be in line with relevant food contact, health and safety regulations where packaging is put on the market.

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[36] ISO 14021:2016: Biomass is defined as a "material of biological origin excluding material embedded in geological formations or transformed to fossilised material. Note 1 to entry: This includes organic material (both living and dead) from above and below ground, e.g. trees, crops, grasses, tree litter, algae, animals and waste of biological origin, e.g. manure.(modified: part on renewable energy excluded); ISO/IEC 13273-2:2015, *Energy efficiency and renewable energy sources — Common international terminology — Part 2: Renewable energy sources*, Biomass definition: Note 1 to entry: The biomass includes waste of biological origin. Note 2 to entry: The material includes animal by-products and residues and excludes peat.

APPENDIX V - ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY FOR RECYCLABILITY OF PLASTIC PACKAGING IN THE CONTEXT OF THE GLOBAL TOURISM PLASTICS INITIATIVE

Recyclability assessment

Please note, there is currently no requirement for signatories of the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative to report on recyclability of packaging, but a commitment to engage the tourism value chain about this information.

However, should this change as knowledge of plastic footprint and commitments advance, a two-step process can be used to assess recyclability of a packaging (portfolio) in line with the definition of 'recyclable packaging' and the related thresholds for 'in practice and at scale' described in Appendix V. Below is an example of the assessment, following a two step analysis.

Example assessment template

Packaging category	Share of plastic packaging portfolio by weight	**Step 1** Does a 'system for recycling' exist in practice and at scale (Yes/No)	**Step 2** Share of my packaging in this category that 'fits' the system for recycling	**Recyclability outcome** *if column D = 'Yes', then corresponding value in column C * corresponding value in Column E*
Category X	30%	Yes	70%	21%
Category Y	25%	No	36%	0%
Category Z	45%	Yes	15%	7%

Totals	100%	75%		28%

(sum should equal 100%) *(share of portfolio for which a recycling system exists in practice and at scale)* *(sum of share of packaging categories for which a recycling system exists and that fits this system)*

Step 1: The first step makes an assessment at the level of 'packaging categories' and indicates for which of these packaging categories a 'system for recycling' exists in practice and at scale (definitions see below).

- A 'system for recycling' is an entire end-to-end system from consumer to recycled material, including collection, in some cases sorting, and reprocessing (which could include washing, drying, shredding, etc.) into recycled materials. This can be a formal or an informal system, as long as it works in practice and at scale.
- Packaging categories can be defined by combinations of materials, packaging formats and, where relevant, customer type (business-to-consumer or B2C versus business-to-business or B2B), and/or other criteria. The main rule of thumb is that packaging items that are not treated by the same 'system for recycling' or are treated as separate 'streams' of materials in certain 'systems for recycling' should be split into different categories. Examples include:
  - 'PET thermoforms' and 'PET bottles' are separate categories as these are often collected, sorted and/or recycled separately. As such 'PET packaging' by itself is too broad a category.
  - 'LDPE flexible packaging >A4 in B2C context' could be a category. This differentiates by size, because large and small films are often separated (with roughly A4 size used as the threshold in many regions), and by customer type because many more regions have 'systems for recycling' for these materials in place in a B2B context than in a B2C context.

The table below is an example list of packaging categories. This list can be tailored to each signatory's packaging portfolio: not all packaging categories may be relevant for your business, some categories might be missing, new packaging categories might be developed over time, and/or some categories may require further detailing.

Global Tourism
Plastics Initiative

Example list of packaging categories

	Packaging category	Examples
Rigid / 3D	PET bottle - beverage	Bottles for water, carbonated drinks, …
	PET bottle - food	Bottles for cooking oils, sauces, …
	PET bottle - other	Bottles for detergents, cosmetics, …
	PET thermoforms	Trays, cups, blisters, …
	Other PET rigid	Jars, …
	HDPE bottle - beverage	Milk bottles, …
	HDPE bottle - food	Bottles for yoghurts, jelly, …
	HDPE bottle - other	
	HDPE other rigid	Pots, tubs, trays, cups, jars, …
	PP bottle	
	PP other rigid	Pots, tubs, trays, cups, jars, …
	LDPE tubes	
	PS rigid	Pots, trays, …
	EPS rigid	Clamshells, …
	PVC rigid	Blisters, bottles, trays, …
	PC bottles in B2B	Large (refillable) water jugs in office buildings
	PC rigid in B2C	
	Other rigid	Multimaterial, PLA, PEF, PU, ABS, SAN, PET-G, PA, PET-Cellophane, ...
Flexible / 2D	>A4 mono material LDPE in B2B	Pallet wraps, large LDPE bags, …
	>A4 mono material LDPE in B2C	Wrap around bottles, wrap around toilet paper, …
	Other >A4 flexibles	
	<A4 flexibles, LDPE	Pouches, sachets, wrappers, small bags, …
	<A4 flexibles, PP	Pouches, sachets, wrappers, small bags, …
	<A4 flexibles, multimaterial	Pouches, sachets, wrappers, small bags, …

The aim of Step 1 is to produce a full list of packaging categories for the signatory's packaging portfolio that indicates which categories have a 'system for recycling' existing in practice and at scale. To assess if a 'system for recycling' exists in practice and at scale, one would - to the best

possible extent[37] - assess if the packaging category achieves a 30% post-consumer recycling rate in multiple regions[38], collectively representing at least 400 million inhabitants.

Step 2: If no 'system for recycling' exists in practice and at scale for a certain packaging category, packaging in that category does not meet the definition of 'recyclable packaging' in the context of the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative at that moment in time.

If a 'system for recycling' does exist in practice and at scale for a certain packaging category, it is important to move to **step two**, which looks deeper into the detailed design (size, colourants, additives, labels, caps/lids, glues, inks, etc.) of that specific packaging and its components in order to assess if the different packaging components actually fit that system. In other words, it assesses if the different packaging components[39] [40], once they enter the system, will (most likely) successfully run through the 'system for recycling' and end up actually being recycled.

For example, the fact that a 'system for recycling' exists in practice and at scale for PET bottles does not imply that every single PET bottle can be considered recyclable: size, colourants, additives, labels, caps/lids, glues, inks, etc. could all hinder the recycling of a specific bottle.

This type of assessment in step two is widely known and applied. Various design-for-recycling guidelines, tools and/or testing methods are available from, for example The Association of Plastics Recyclers (APR), Plastic Recyclers Europe, European PET Bottle Platform and many more. If there are minor differences between the different guidelines, it is encouraged to use the geographically most relevant one or the strictest one.

This assessment is done at packaging component level and for the specific 'system for recycling' the packaging would end up in. For example, assuming a PET bottle and all its components end up in the 'system for recycling' for PET bottles, one should assess for each packaging component (e.g. bottle, cap, label) if they are (most likely) going to be recycled in practice through that system.

Once the assessment at component level is done, the percentage by weight of the packaging that is 'recyclable' can be calculated by dividing the weight of recyclable components over the total packaging weight. 100% of the packaging weight can be considered recyclable if its main packaging components, together representing >95% of the entire packaging weight, are recyclable according to the above definition, and if the remaining minor components are compatible with the recycling process and do not hinder the recyclability of the main components. Otherwise, only the (weigth of the) recyclable components of a package (or the recyclable parts of components) can be counted towards achieving the recyclability commitment, and only when other components do not hinder or contaminate their recyclability. More details and examples related to this calculation can be found in the footnotes to the definition of 'recyclable packaging' in Appendix IV.

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[37] Since the availability of data on recycling rates by packaging type is limited, it is currently not expected from Global Tourism Plastics Initiative signatories to have all necessary quantitative data in place to prove that the thresholds are met for each packaging category they provide. However, we encourage you, based on best available data and where necessary expert estimates, to apply the spirit of the methodology as well as possible, and to be transparent about the data and assumptions used. The Foundation might also collect and provide data and insights to help support the signatories with this assessment.

[38] Regions can be any geographic area (countries, states, provinces, ...), anywhere in the world (independent of where your organisation is based).

[39] A packaging component is a part of packaging that can be separated by hand or by using simple physical means (ISO 18601), e.g. a cap, a lid and (non in-mould) labels.

[40] For packaging producers, it suffices to only assess the components they produce and sell. E.g. if your organisation produces bottles, and the caps and labels are selected and applied by your customers, you might not decide about the design of the other components. Your commitment on and assessment of recyclability is in that case limited to the bottle itself (i.e. your packaging portfolio).

Compostability assessment

The assessment method for compostable packaging is similar, but less complex, compared to the 2-step process to assess recyclability:

- **Step 1:** A split by packaging category is less complex. The main categorisation of packaging categories could be based on the environment in which the packaging is used/collected:
    - Technically compostable packaging in closed systems (e.g. stadiums, events, kitchens) - these typically have higher collection and effective composting rates
    - Technically compostable packaging in certain B2B applications - these might have high collection and effective composting rates
    - Technically compostable packaging in certain B2C applications - these typically have low collection and even lower effective composting rates today
- **Step 2:** of the assessment would in this case be part of testing the 'technical compostability' based on relevant international compostability standards for each component.

In other words, if your packaging is in line with relevant international compostability standards, the only remaining requirement is to prove a 30% post-consumer composting rate is achieved in multiple regions, collectively representing at least 400 million inhabitants.