GLOBAL TOURISM PLASTICS INITIATIVE
in support of
the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment
Version 22/01/2020

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1 Context

The tourism sector can support the conservation of the oceans and the blue economy. Among the positive benefits are revenue generation, local job creation and prosperity, infrastructure and community facilities, awareness of the need for conservation, investment in the environment and cultural heritage and the contribution to sustainable community livelihoods. However, there are also challenges related to tourism development such as the loss of biodiversity, pollution, resource consumption and changing socio-economic patterns.

With regards to pollution, a large proportion of marine plastic litter has been found to come from tourism and other tourism related value chains in coastal areas. Recreational activities, building and construction as well as fishing and food production in coastal tourism destinations appear as the most probable sources. According to WWF’s “Out of
the Plastic Trap report, in the Mediterranean region alone, tourism is responsible for up to 40 percent increase of the surge of marine litter that enters the Mediterranean Sea.

At the same time, plastic pollution can lead to considerable costs in the tourism sector. According to WWF’s “Stop the flood of plastic” report, the tourism sector in the Mediterranean region loses up to 268 million Euros each year from plastic pollution. Uncontrolled littering and, in general, poor destination management, are increasingly leading to the negative perception of consumers towards destinations. These can in turn trigger a decrease in tourism arrivals and have even led, in some occasions, to the complete closure of some destinations and operations of businesses with the consequent job and revenue losses in the tourism sector.

Noting with concern that the high and rapidly increasing levels of marine litter, including plastic litter and microplastics, represent a serious environmental problem at a global scale, negatively affecting marine biodiversity, ecosystems, animal well-being, societies, livelihoods, fisheries, maritime transport, recreation, tourism and economies, Resolution UNEP/EA.4/Res.6

In connection to the growing awareness of the environmental impacts of the tourism sector, the latest communication campaigns on plastics and the alarming reports on the implications of the tourism sector on plastic pollution have contributed to reinforcing the urgent need for tourism stakeholders to act upon the issue of plastic pollution in a collective and coordinated manner across the value chain.

In fact, the tourism sector is among the sectors which have been included in global initiatives to address plastic waste and pollution such as the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment, led by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation in collaboration with United Nations Environment Programme with the aim to unite businesses, governments and other organizations behind a common vision and targets to address plastic waste pollution at its source.

To help make this vision a reality, businesses and governments 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.

New Plastics Economy Global Commitment Definitions

2 Tourism sector’s readiness to address plastic pollution

An overview of the actions undertaken by some major tourism companies such as TUI Group, Iberostar Group, Radisson, Hilton and Marriott, among others, towards the elimination of single-use plastic products, shows the readiness of the sector to address plastic pollution. Several frontrunning companies have indeed started setting quantifiable targets in line with some of the targets set by the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment for hospitality businesses.

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Corporate actions include a combination of elimination and substitution of single-use plastic items with reusable products and established mechanisms to report on their individual progress, mainly through Corporate Sustainability Reports. However, in most corporate strategies, there is limited reference to the characteristics of plastic products to be used (i.e. reusable, recyclable or compostable) and no explicit targets/actions related to the use of (post-consumer) recycled materials. This unveils the need for companies to take a holistic approach to their management of plastic products. An overview of selected initiatives from individual companies is presented in Annex 1.

All things considered, leading companies in the tourism sector are increasingly aware of the need for strong collaboration with local authorities, communities, suppliers, and competitors, to address the challenges caused by lack of waste management measures and infrastructure at the destinations. In addition, companies are also influencing staff, customers and suppliers into thinking differently about the use of plastics.

Considering the fragmented nature of the tourism sector and its interrelation with many other sectorial value chains (e.g. food, building, construction, furniture, etc), a systemic approach and global coordination efforts are required to tackle the plastics pollution challenge. Such as systemic approach is provided by the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment.

Similarly, we call on hospitality and food service companies such as take-away food chains, hotels, and airlines to join the Global Commitment and embark on a journey towards a circular economy for plastics. These industries represent significant volumes of single-use plastic packaging and are currently underrepresented in the Global Commitment.

New Plastics Economy Spring 2019 Report Summary

3 Overall objectives

The Global Tourism Plastics Initiative acts as the tourism sector interface of the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment, which already unites more than 450 businesses, governments and other organisations behind a common vision and targets to address plastic waste and pollution at its source.

The Global Tourism Plastics Initiative is aligned with New Plastics Economy vision, framework and definitions to mobilise the global tourism sector towards concerted action against plastic pollution.

The Global Tourism Plastics Initiative requires tourism organisations to make a set of concrete and actionable commitments by 2025:

1) Eliminate problematic or unnecessary plastic packaging and items by 2025;
2) Take action to move from single-use to reuse models or reusable alternatives by 2025;
3) Engage the value chain to move towards 100% of plastic packaging to be reusable, recyclable, or compostable;
4) Take action to increase the amount of recycled content across all plastic packaging and items used
5) Commit to collaborate and invest to increase the recycling and composting rates for plastics
6) Report publicly and annually on progress made towards these targets.

To support the tourism sector in the implementation of these ambitious objectives, while ensuring technical rigor and the transparency of the actions to be taken by engaged organizations, the objectives will be broken down into actionable elements within a “Menu of Commitments” for tourism stakeholders to select from.

The Global Commitment will review its minimum ambition level every 18 to 24 months and become increasingly ambitious over the coming years to ensure it continues to represent true leadership. The Global Tourism Plastics Initiative will reflect this increasing ambition and support its signatories in achieving it.

4 Value proposition to the sector

The Global Tourism Plastics Initiative will support companies, destinations, associations, and NGOs through:

- **Knowledge sharing and capacity building** - Accelerating the replication and scaling up of successful on-going actions to address plastics pollution;
- **Sustainable & circular procurement** - Recommendations for sustainable procurement practices and collaboration with suppliers to improve sustainability purchasing requirements and criteria for plastics;
- **Destination & value chain level cooperation** - Fostering & supporting the work at the destination level to improve waste management practices and infrastructure;
- **Tracking and benchmarking progress** - Reporting annually and publicly on progress towards meeting these commitments, including sharing tools to support measurement and progress;
- **Visibility and international recognition** – Highlighting organizations involved in successful actions delivering impact through collaboration and innovation, via case studies and other communication products, including participation in international fora.

5 Governance framework

Cross-sectoral collaboration is needed to address the complexity of plastic pollution. This requires action at different levels of the tourism value chain, from destinations to global companies, from suppliers of products using plastic packaging to waste management services.

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3 Menu of Commitments for relevant sub-sectors will be developed and announced in the course of 2020
4 18 to 24 months, starting from the industry launch event at FITUR on January 22, 2020
5 Developed and promoted materials will be hosted on the One Planet Network Sustainable Tourism Programme website which already has a broad database of materials supporting integration of circularity in tourism value chains. A dedicated website is also available for the initiative: [https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/gtpi](https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/gtpi)
The following types of organizations will be able to join the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative:

- Tourism businesses, inclusive of all subsectors - accommodation, airlines, cruises, tour operators, travel agencies, event organisers, online booking platforms, excursion providers, etc.;
- Destinations, including local/national governments, destination management organizations (DMOs) and companies (DMCs), and relevant infrastructure providers⁶;
- Suppliers of products and services to tourism businesses with a high plastic footprint;
- Certification schemes;
- Tourism associations, business networks, academia, and non-governmental organizations

The Global Tourism Plastics Initiative comprises three types of roles with distinct responsibilities: leading organizations, advisory committee members, and signatories.

Each of the three roles and each type of organization will have to make a specific contribution to the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative. Sections 5.1. to 5.3. describe the implications for the three possible roles. Section 5.4. presents an overview of the expected contributions by type of organization.

5.1 Leading Organizations

The Global Tourism Plastics Initiative has been developed by the Sustainable Tourism Programme of the One Planet network, a multi-stakeholder partnership to implement SDG 12 on Sustainable Consumption and Production and is led by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Tourism Organisation, in collaboration with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation.

Leading organizations will be responsible for:
- Shaping the structure and content of the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative, in coordination with the Advisory Committee;
- Engaging tourism sector stakeholders and supporting organizations to deliver on commitments on plastic through tools, training, awareness, knowledge⁷;
- Developing and coordinating quality assurance and reporting mechanisms and procedures⁸;
- Communicating the outcomes of the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative.

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⁶ E.g. waste management infrastructure, airports, ports, others.
⁷ A key existing channel to provide "tools, training, awareness, knowledge" is the One Planet Sustainable Tourism Programme. Additional resources will be needed to provide dedicated support on plastics to engaged organizations.
⁸ Quality assurance would need to be structured in line with the Global Commitment and with a view of scalability. The discussion about adapting the reporting mechanisms of the One Planet network for the Tourism Plastics Initiative is ongoing.
5.2 Advisory Committee Members

The Advisory Committee is composed by organizations committed to the sustainable development of tourism and with expertise on the different stages of the value chain. The following organizations may be part of the Advisory Committee: tourism businesses, tourism associations and business networks, destinations, certification schemes, suppliers of plastic items, waste management entities, NGOs and consultancies.

Before the launch of the initiative in January 2020, the main role of the Advisory Committee would be to support shaping the structure of the initiative, especially by translating the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative’s objectives into an easy-to-understand menu of actionable targets for tourism stakeholders to choose from when joining the initiative.

The Advisory Committee will support the implementation of the initiative by:

- Ensuring the overall technical robustness, relevance to deliver impact and scalability
- Disseminating the initiative and engaging additional tourism sector stakeholders to join
- Backstopping organizations working on defining their targets to identify priority streams
- Developing and promoting tools, guidelines, trainings and knowledge exchange activities
- Identifying main results and lessons learned for effective reporting through the One Planet network annual reporting mechanism and the generation of case studies

Lessons learned from the development of tools by this project will be shared globally and recognition provided to the members of the Advisory Committee in all publications and reports.

The following criteria will be considered when selecting the members of the Advisory Committee:

- The organization should be a signatory of the Initiative;
- For business networks and certification schemes: capacity and willingness to promote the Initiative among businesses and other tourism stakeholders;
- For governments and destinations: willingness to engage public and private stakeholders to address destination-specific challenges; willingness to align with the vision of the Global Commitment and the objectives of the Initiative
- For businesses: readiness to address plastic pollution and willingness to commit to actionable targets in line with the Global Commitment; be partner of MAC member of the One Planet Sustainable Tourism Programme (completion of due diligence requirements).

5.3 Signatories

Signatory organizations will actively collaborate with leading organizations on the development and implementation of the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative. To become signatories, organizations will have to put forward a commitment detailing commitments to attain the objectives of the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative by 2025.
Organizations signing up to the Tourism Plastics Initiative will also become signatories of the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment. Organizations and governments already engaged in the Global Commitment can include tourism-related activities in their contributions to support the implementation of the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative.

In addition to their commitment to the objectives of the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative, signatories are expected to:

- **Lead by example**, driving action internally, sharing knowledge, and catalyzing collaborative action throughout the sector
- **Create awareness** on the need for the tourism sector to take action and its role as an agent of change.

Signatories are eligible to be part of the **Advisory Committee** to support leading organizations in shaping the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative, including the definition of targets and priority working streams.

For enthusiastic organizations starting their journey on the topic, the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative will serve as an **incubator to build their capacity**. Becoming a signatory of the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative offers the possibility for a wide range of stakeholders to engage.

For tourism businesses with an annual turnover above USD 500 million, reporting is mandatory on progress towards meeting the commitments. For businesses with an annual turnover below USD 500 million, reporting is encouraged through their own reporting mechanisms and could be linked to the website of Global Tourism Plastics Initiative.
### Summary of the responsibilities for organizations joining the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Functions</th>
<th>Organizations</th>
<th>Implies full endorsement / signature of the NPEGC</th>
<th>Reporting to the Initiative (and NPEGC)</th>
<th>Access to knowledge resources / activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Leading Organizations** | - Shaping structure and content of Initiative;  
- Coordinate engagement of sector’s stakeholders  
- Developing + coordinating quality assurance and reporting mechanisms/procedures;  
- Communicating progress | UNEP and UNWTO in collaboration with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, in the framework of the One Planet Network’s Sustainable Tourism Programme | Yes | Yes | ... |
| **Signatories* (Tourism businesses, Destinations, Suppliers, Cert. Schemes, Tourism Assoc., NGOs)** | - Define targets, take action and report back *(See details in ‘5.4 Expected contributions from *)  
- Support the initiative in creating awareness, leading by example and supporting development of tools and methodologies  
- Eligible to be part of the Advisory Committee in the shaping and management of the Initiative | Business Associations: ex. International Tourism Partnership (ITP); World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC); Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC); ABTA; Asociacion Hoteles Playa Dorada (DR), Philippines Hotel Association  
Individual Companies: ex. TUI, Iberostar; LUX Hotels (Mauritius)  
Governments and Destinations: ex. Portugal, Seychelles, Dominican Republic, Chile, Saint Lucia  
NGOs: WWF, Travel Foundation | Yes* | Yes | Yes |

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9 Commitments and reporting requirements vary depending on the type and size of the organization
5.4 Expected contributions from signatories

Tourism businesses are expected to:\(^\text{10}\):
1. Endorse the common vision
2. Make the following individual commitments per type of tourism business:
   a. Accommodation providers:\(^\text{11}\)
      i. Take action to eliminate problematic or unnecessary plastic packaging and/or items\(^\text{12}\) by 2025;
      ii. Take action to move from single-use to reuse models or reusable alternatives by 2025;
      iii. Engage the value chain to move towards 100% of plastic packaging to be reusable, recyclable, or compostable by 2025;
      iv. Take action to increase the amount of recycled content\(^\text{13}\) across all plastic packaging and items used by 2025;
   b. For other categories\(^\text{14}\) of businesses the commitments will be developed and announced in the course of 2020
3. Commit to collaborate and invest to increase the recycling and composting rates for plastics
4. Report annually and publicly on progress towards meeting these commitments, as well as on estimates of annual volumes (tonnes) of plastics production/use (the latter will be used for aggregation purposes only, but individual public disclosure is encouraged). Reporting requirements will be kept as straightforward and streamlined as possible.

Governments and destinations are expected to:\(^\text{15}\):
1. Endorse the common vision
2. Commit to have ambitious policies and measurable targets in place well ahead of 2025 in order to realise and report tangible progress by 2025, at country and/or destination level, in each of the following areas:
   a. Stimulating elimination of problematic or unnecessary plastic packaging and/or products;
   b. Encouraging reuse models where relevant, to reduce the need for single-use plastic packaging and/or products;
   c. Incentivising the use of reusable, recyclable, or compostable plastic packaging;
   d. Increasing collection, sorting, reuse, and recycling rates, and facilitating the establishment of the necessary infrastructure and related funding mechanisms;
   e. Stimulating the demand for recycled plastics

\(^{10}\) Based on the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment and adjusted to reflect the particularities of the sector

\(^{11}\) In the broadest sense of the word, including hotels, hostels, guest houses, apartments and caravan parks

\(^{12}\) Items can be all kinds of products or accessories used in the operations of accommodation providers. The focus should predominantly be on items that are single use and/or disposable.

\(^{13}\) Post-consumer recycled content (as defined in Appendix V of the Signatory Pack)

\(^{14}\) Such as airlines, cruises, tour operators, travel agencies, online booking platforms, and event organisers

\(^{15}\) Based on the minimum bar expectations for Governments and Cities in the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment
3. Support traveler behavior change on recycling and reuse, throughout their journey at a destination;
4. Collaborate with the private sector, NGOs, and other destinations towards achieving the vision and objectives of the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative;
5. Publicly report on progress of the implementation of commitments annually;
6. Communicate successes to travelers, local stakeholders, and externally;

Certification schemes, tourism associations, business networks, academia and non-governmental organizations are expected to:\n
1. Endorse the Initiative’s common vision;
2. Encourage their affiliated organizations and businesses or partners to join the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative;
3. Review their practices, criteria, standards, and policies, to identify opportunities to support their affiliated organizations to eliminate problematic single use items, uptake reuse models, and introduce of more sustainable alternatives;
4. Publicly report actions and progress;
5. Communicate successes to travelers, local stakeholders, and externally.

5.5 Mapping of key organizations, governments and destinations

As stated before, multiple stakeholders in the tourism sector are already taking action to address plastics pollution. This includes companies eliminating hundreds of single-use items, destinations setting ambitious targets, and associations developing guidelines to support their members’ actions on the topic. A sample of these actors plus others considered instrumental in the mainstreaming of actions across the sector are included below. The leading organizations have on-going collaborations on the topic and/or have already engaged some of these organizations/governments to join the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Private Sector</th>
<th>Public Sector</th>
<th>Certification schemes, NGOs, other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation:</td>
<td>International</td>
<td>Global Sustainable Tourism Council—GSTC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radisson</td>
<td>Organizations:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hilton Marriott</td>
<td>UN Environment</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>InterContinental</td>
<td>UNWTO</td>
<td>Travellife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iberostar</td>
<td>National Governments and/or Destinations:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Melia Hotels</td>
<td>Dominican Republic (Punta Cana, Puerto Plata, Romana-Bayahibe)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melco Resorts and Entertainment*</td>
<td>Philippines (Metro Manila, Iloilo)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tour Operators:</td>
<td>Saint Lucia</td>
<td>Dominican Republic (Punta Cana, Puerto Plata, Romana-Bayahibe)</td>
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<tr>
<td>TUI</td>
<td>Mauritius</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Travel Corporation</td>
<td>France*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associations:</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

16 (Under consultation with Advisory Committee) Based on the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment and inspired on the UK Plastics Pact Roadmap (p. 10) to reflect the particularities of the sector.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Private Sector</th>
<th>Public Sector</th>
<th>Certification schemes, NGOs, other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• International Tourism Partnership—ITP</td>
<td>• Spain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• World Travel and Tourism Council—WTTC</td>
<td>• Republic of Seychelles*</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• ABTA</td>
<td>• Portugal*</td>
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<tr>
<td>• MVO Netherlands</td>
<td>• Chile*</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• City of Copenhagen*</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Signatories of the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment

### 5.6 Advisory Committee

A consultative body composed of frontrunning tourism businesses, business networks, governments and tourism organizations will be set for the development and implementation of the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative. The Advisory Committee will support the Initiative by:

- Ensuring the overall technical robustness, relevance to deliver impact and scalability of the initiative;
- Disseminating the initiative and engaging additional tourism sector stakeholders to join;
- Backstopping organizations working on defining their targets to identify priority streams;
- Developing and promoting tools, guidelines, trainings and knowledge exchange activities;
- Identifying main results and lessons learned for effective reporting through the One Planet network annual reporting mechanism and the generation of case studies.

### 6 Mechanisms for transparency, monitoring and reporting

The Global Tourism Plastics Initiative will ensure the availability of tools and mechanisms to support accountability and transparency on actions taken by its signatories.

Currently, the One Planet Network’s reporting mechanisms capture changes in practices, high-level commitments, policy instruments, and awareness-raising activities. The reporting mechanism will be as streamlined as possible with the one of the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment.

To support signatories and interested organizations, the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative will seek to identify, develop, and/or curate tools to establish, assess, and monitor plastic footprint.

Large organisations must report certain information to the Sustainable Tourism Programme of the One Planet Network each year. We strongly encourage all signatories to report. Organisations that do not fall within the definition of a “large organisation” may report on progress on its commitments each year on their own website or other owned channel.
The Global Tourism Plastics Initiative counts on signatories to report information accurately, and in a timely fashion. The Sustainable Tourism Programme of the One Planet Network will not verify any data provided, nor will audit the organisation.
## Timeline and Milestones

### 7.1 Setting up of the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Activity/Milestone</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Sep</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
<th>2020-Q1</th>
<th>2020-Q2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Develop a first draft Terms of Reference to use as a basis for discussions with partner organizations</td>
<td>OK</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Engage a base of key players in discussion (e.g. WTTC, TUI, Iberostar, Radisson, ABTA, CSR Netherlands...)</td>
<td>Ok</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Establishment of a working-group/ consultative body for the development of the initiative</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Terms of Reference for consultation with potential signatories</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td><strong>(Milestone)</strong> Announcement of the initiative at the Our Oceans Conference</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Refine/tailor mechanisms for technical support and exchange (sectorial needs vs. capacity of leading organizations)</td>
<td>On-going</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Consultation session at the Sustainable Tourism Programme’s Annual Conference</td>
<td>Scheduled</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td><strong>(Milestone)</strong> Official Launch of the initiative at an international tourism fair (e.g. FITUR, ITB, WTTC Global Summit)</td>
<td>OK</td>
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</table>
### 7.2 Medium-term activities (2020-2021)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Work Stream</th>
<th>2020-51</th>
<th>2020-52</th>
<th>2021-51</th>
<th>2021-52</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Develop &amp; curate webinars and case studies</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• In-person trainings on plastics management</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Research to support the Initiative’s strategy: Hotspots analysis of plastics(*) , Policy and regulatory landscape at destinations</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT PRACTICES</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Sustainable procurement guidelines and tenders</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• LCA assessments of alternatives</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>SUPPORT TO DESTINATIONS</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Support on technical aspects and coordination mechanisms</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>MEASUREMENT, MONITORING, AND REPORTING</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Establish reporting mechanisms</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Annual Report</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Development of Tools and methodologies</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>“SECRETARIAT” FOR THE INITIATIVE</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Coordination of Advisory Committee</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Engagement of new signatories</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Communications</td>
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### 8 Annex 1—Overview of Tourism Companies’ Actions to Address Plastic Pollution (vs NPEGC)

This overview is a qualitative analysis based on publicly available information\(^{17}\) regarding the actions and ambitions of tourism companies to address plastics pollution.

This initial analysis:

- Provides an overview of where the sector stands vis a vis the [New Plastics Economy Global Commitment](https://www.newplasticseconomy.org/) requirements. It does not endorse/dismiss compliance of the actions/intentions presented and could be further improved via one on one conversations or targeted surveys with the companies listed below.
- Identifies key areas in which the One Planet’s Sustainable Tourism Program, UNWTO, UN Environment (+ other key stakeholders) can focus their efforts in the context of a tourism initiative under the umbrella of the NPEGC.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NPEGC Commitments by 2025</th>
<th>Radisson</th>
<th>Iberostar</th>
<th>TUI</th>
<th>The Travel Corporation</th>
<th>Hilton</th>
<th>Marriott</th>
<th>InterContinental</th>
<th>Melia Hotels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hotels</td>
<td>Hotels</td>
<td>Tour Operator: Hotels, Airlines, Cruises</td>
<td>Tour Operator: Hotels, Cruises</td>
<td>Hotels</td>
<td>Hotels</td>
<td>Hotels</td>
<td>Hotels</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. i. Take action to eliminate problematic or unnecessary plastic packaging through redesign, innovation and new delivery models</td>
<td>Zero single-use plastics in Meetings and Events by 2020</td>
<td>Zero single-use plastics in all Iberostar hotel and resort rooms by 2019, to be extended to all hotel amenities</td>
<td>Remove 250 million single-use plastic items in hotels, cruise ships, airlines and offices by the end of 2020</td>
<td>Eliminate all unnecessary single-use plastics from its operations by the end of 2022</td>
<td>Cut 250 million plastic straws and bottles, cotton buds, cutlery, plates, and drink containers</td>
<td>Remove plastic straws and stirrers by July 2019</td>
<td>Eliminate plastic straws in all hotels by the end of 2019</td>
<td>Pledge to eliminate all single use plastics from its hotels by the end of 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^{17}\) As of June 2019
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NPEGC Commitments by 2025</th>
<th>Radisson</th>
<th>Iberostar</th>
<th>TUI</th>
<th>The Travel Corporation</th>
<th>Hilton</th>
<th>Marriott</th>
<th>InterContinental</th>
<th>Melia Hotels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. ii. Take action to move from single-use towards reuse models where relevant</td>
<td>Move towards reusable items and alternative materials such as glass…</td>
<td>Replacement of plastic laundry bags</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Single use plastics to be replaced by reusable items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. iii. All plastic packaging is 100% reusable, recyclable or compostable</td>
<td>(Move towards alternative materials) …compostable cardboard or renewable plant-based items</td>
<td>Substitute disposable items with those made of recycled, biodegradable, compostable options where possible</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. iv. Set an ambitious 2025 (post-consumer) recycled content target across all plastic packaging used</td>
<td>25% recycled content of plastic bottles by 2025</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Commit to collaborate towards increasing reuse/recycling/composting rate for plastics</td>
<td>90% of plastic drink bottles to be collected for recycling by 2025 Engaging with customers about other items to be replaced</td>
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</table>
### A look across the sector

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Radisson Hotels</th>
<th>Iberostar Hotels</th>
<th>TUI Tour Operator: Hotels, Airlines, Cruises</th>
<th>The Travel Corporation Tour Operator: Hotels, Cruises</th>
<th>Hilton Hotels</th>
<th>Marriott Hotels</th>
<th>InterContinental Hotels</th>
<th>Melia Hotels Hotels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Target date</strong></td>
<td><em>NPEGC: 2025</em></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Highlighted single-use plastic items</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>NPEGC: Non-specified</em></td>
<td>Straws</td>
<td>Plastic bottles</td>
<td>Straws</td>
<td>Single use coffee cups</td>
<td>Straws and bottles, cotton buds, cutlery, plates, and drink containers</td>
<td>Plastic straws and stirrers</td>
<td>Straws</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Target volume</strong></td>
<td><em>NPEGC: Achieve zero single use plastics</em></td>
<td>Achieve zero single use plastics (in Meetings and Events)</td>
<td>Achieve zero single use plastics</td>
<td>Cut 250 million single-use plastic items</td>
<td>Achieve zero unnecessary plastic items</td>
<td>Cut 250 million plastic straws and bottles, cotton buds, cutlery, plates, and drink containers</td>
<td>Zero straws and stirrers</td>
<td>Zero straws</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Summary:

- The sector (Accommodation, Tour Operators, Airlines, Cruises, Excursions, etc.) is committed and taking action to address single-use plastic pollution
- Actions include a combination of elimination and substitution with reusable products
- Limited reference to the characteristics of plastic to be used (i.e. reusable, recyclable or compostable) and to explicit targets/actions related to use of (post-consumer) recycled materials
- Limited reference to collaboration efforts at the destination level to improve recycling and/or composting capabilities
- Companies have established mechanisms to report on their individual progress, mainly through the Corporate Sustainability Reports

### Insights:

- Great potential for progress and impact via elimination of products (changes in practices) and implementation of reusable models using products available in the market
- Actions regarding the type of plastic used are less operational and would need to be addressed via procurement practices, usually coordinated at the global level.
Increasing the rate of recycling and composting depends on a combination of internal operational activities and collaboration at the destination level with governments (national, local) and service providers.

To increase the contribution of the tourism sector to addressing plastic pollution, the organizations supporting the collective initiative could focus on:

- Accelerating the replication and scaling up of successful on-going actions, via knowledge-sharing and quantification of positive impacts
- Enhancing the work via procurement practices and collaboration with suppliers to look into the technical specifications of plastics
- Fostering and support the work at the destination level to improve waste management practices and infrastructure
# Annex 2—National Plastics Pacts: Summary of objectives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Plastics Pacts</th>
<th>NPEGC Commitments for businesses by 2025</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>UK: Plastics Pact</strong></td>
<td>1. Eliminate problematic or unnecessary single-use packaging through redesign, innovation or alternative (reuse) delivery model.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov, 2018</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>France: Pacte National sur les emballages plastiques</strong></td>
<td>Etablir une liste des emballages devant être désignés comme problématiques ou inutiles et pour lesquels des mesures pour leur élimination devront être prises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Chile: Circula el Plastico</strong></td>
<td>1. tomar acciones para eliminar los envases y utensilios plásticos de un solo uso que sean problemáticos o innecesarios a través del rediseño y la innovación</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July, 2019</td>
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| | 3. Commit to collaborate towards increasing reuse/recycling/composting rate for plastics |
| | 4. Report annually on the commitments |
| | **May 2019 Report** |