



UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE NICE, FRANCE 2025

UNOC3 Conference Side Events

The Scientists Coalition for an Effective Plastics Treaty held 2 side events at UNOC 2025. We have provided the details in this document.

1)The UN Treaty to End Plastic Pollution: Robust Science for Success

12-3pm, 10 June, Jules Barrois Auditorium, Institut de la Mer de Villefranche-sur-mer,
Nice

Organized by Scientists' Coalition for an Effective Plastics Treaty

Background on the event "The UN Treaty to End Plastic Pollution: Robust Science for Success"

The Global Plastics Treaty was mandated by the United Nations in 2022 and is currently under negotiation. The goal of the treaty is a legally binding agreement that will help countries reduce and ultimately eliminate plastic pollution across the entire life cycle. The Scientists' Coalition for an Effective Plastics Treaty is a voluntary international body of over 400 independent scientists with expertise on the harms plastic pollution causes to human health, society, economies, and the environment. This event comprised scientists, plastics experts, and policy-makers engaging in two 'fireside chats' about how we can reduce, and ultimately eliminate, plastics pollution. Over 70 people attended this event - it was standing room only.

Organising partners: Sorbonne University; Centre Scientifique de Monaco; International Science Council (ISC); Monterey Bay Aquarium; Secretariat for the Pacific Environment Programme (SPREP); University of Pau & the Pays de l'Adour; Stockholm Environment Institute; University of Plymouth; United Nations Conference on Trade & Development (UNCTAD); Uni. of Gothenburg, Centre for Sea and Society ; Deep Ocean Stewardship Initiative (DOSI); Ocean Plastics Leadership Network (OPLN); Royal Society of Chemistry; Stockholm University

Sponsors: Sorbonne University; University of Pau & the Pays de l'Adour; Uni. of Gothenburg; Plastic Solutions Fund; Paul M. Angell Family Foundation; FORMAS (Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development); Clare Foundation; Cawthron Institute

2)Ask a Scientist

3 - 4pm, 12 June, The Plastic Pavillion; Palais des Expositions - Nice Acropolis

Organized by Scientists' Coalition for an Effective Plastics Treaty and the University of Plymouth

Background on the event "Ask a Scientist"

The Scientists' Coalition for an Effective Plastics Treaty provide as many opportunities as we can for communities, organisations and negotiators to ask us questions about the science of plastic pollution including sources, pathways, impacts, options, and solutions. A key example of these opportunities has been 'Ask A Scientists' events and informal drop in sessions at global plastics treaty negotiating sessions. This Ask A Scientist event was another opportunity for the general public and negotiators to ask our scientists on the ground science-based questions about plastic pollution in the context of the global plastics treaty. Questions and responses were translated into French by our French science team.

All seats were taken and many stood to ask questions and listen.

Key Issues discussed in both events

- > the ways that harmonised criteria and standards for plastics could help drive down global plastic pollution
- > the importance of independent, evidenced based science for the global plastics treaty
- > conflict-of-interest mitigation in science bodies
- > the importance of Indigenous knowledge for the global plastics treaty
- > the incorporation of human rights into the global plastics treaty

Key recommendations for action / voluntary commitments

- > At our event in Villefranche, our organising partners declared their commitment to "evidence-based decision making to protect ocean health and sustainability including in the Global Plastics Treaty negotiations and its implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and in the implementation of innovative responses to SDG14".
- > Participation, inclusivity, transparency, and conflict of interest mitigation in all science-policy interfaces supporting treaty negotiations and the implementation of the future instrument. This will enable crucial contributions from independent scientists across multiple disciplines, Indigenous knowledge and rights holders, citizen scientists, frontline and fenceline communities, waste workers and other experts in guiding the necessary criteria and standards, finance and science-policy mechanism, and implementation for an effective global plastics instrument and to ensure just transition.
- > The regulation of hazardous plastic chemicals, simplification of plastic chemicals and plastic products, safe and sustainable product, system, and technology design, transparency measures, and a financial mechanism to support developing countries to meet their legal objectives to the treaty will all be key to a successful global plastics instrument.

Images

1) The UN Treaty to End Plastic Pollution: Robust Science for Success





2) Ask a Scientist



