



**Plastic pollution harms our health,  
our economies, and our societies.**

What **legal actions** are needed?

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Take the **InforMEA** E-Learning course:  
**Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution –  
Legal Frameworks** to find out.

## UN Special Rapporteur on Toxics:

*“ The whole cycle of plastics, at its various stages, has become a global threat to human rights. ”*

### How can we address this threat?

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**6.9 billion tons of plastic waste have been generated globally since 1950. Only 9% has been recycled.**

**This endangers all marine life and human health and well-being.**

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**To solve the plastic waste crisis, we must shift from 'take-make-waste' to a circular plastic economy.**

International law is essential to ensure that **governments, businesses, and consumers** everywhere **take consistent and effective action.**

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**Plastic pollution in our oceans is projected to triple by 2040 if no action is taken.**

Can law help prevent this?

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In March 2022, the **United Nations Environment Assembly** took a monumental decision to develop a new **international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution**.

**Why is this so important?**

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## **COVID-19 Crisis: A Plastic Pandemic.**

Personal protective equipment has significantly increased plastic waste.

**The time for governments to act is now.**

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**Plastic waste leads to microplastics, toxic chemicals and micropollutants in the oceans. What can environmental law do about this?**

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## What could a globally binding treaty on plastic pollution achieve by 2024?

Protect marine ecosystems and the people who rely on them.

Save governments \$70 billion.

Reduce global gas emissions by 24%.

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Preventing ship-based marine pollution, recycling, waste management, extended producer responsibility, standards certification and labelling, eco-design, deposit-refund schemes, taxes, banning single-use plastics...

**What do these actions have in common?**

They are **legal** interventions addressing **plastic pollution & marine litter**.

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**More than 600 national laws tackle plastic pollution.**

What are they? Are they working? What more is needed?

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