

## Plastic pollution: Green light for 'historic' treaty “歷史性” 協商應對塑膠污染

世界多國將制定一項旨在解決塑膠污染問題的國際條約。近 200 個國家同意就這份協議展開磋商，以採取行動，應對“塑膠危機”。

There's growing concern that **discarded** plastic is destroying habitats, harming wildlife and **contaminating** the food chain. And because the problem **spans** international boundaries, a global solution is required.

人們越來越擔心廢棄塑膠正在破壞棲息地、危害野生動植物健康、污染食物鏈。因為這個問題跨越國界，所以需要一個全球性的解決方案。

In what's being seen as a **landmark** decision, the United Nations is moving forward with plans to bring in a **legally binding** international treaty that **targets** plastic at all stages of use, not just clearing up bottles and straws in the oceans, but addressing the design, production and recycling of all plastic products.

聯合國作出一個被視為里程碑的決定，將推進計畫，引入一項具有法律約束力的國際條約，目的是針對塑膠的各個使用階段進行規劃，不只是清理海洋中的塑膠瓶和吸管，還涉及所有塑膠產品的設計、生產和回收利用。

Environment groups say the resolution **paves the way for** a cleaner, safer future for people and the planet. But turning off the plastic tap won't be easy – at the current rate of production, there'll be an estimated 1.3 billion tonnes of plastic on the planet by 2040.

環保組織表示，該決議為人類和地球創造一個更清潔、更安全的未來鋪平了道路。但停止塑膠生產並非易事，按照目前的生產速度，到 2040 年，估計地球上將有 13 億噸塑膠。

### 1. 詞彙表

discarded	被丟棄的
contaminating	污染
landmark	有里程碑意義的；里程碑
legally binding	有法律約束力的
targets	針對
paves the way	為...鋪平道路

### 2. 閱讀理解：請在讀完上文後，回答下列問題。（答案見下頁）

1. Why is a global solution required to tackle plastic pollution?
2. What stages of the plastic pollution problem will the UN's legally binding international treaty try to tackle?
3. How much plastic waste is it estimated there will be on the planet by 2040?
4. Who thinks this treaty will be better for people and the planet?

### 3. 答案

1. Why is a global solution required to tackle plastic pollution?

**Because the plastic pollution problem spans international boundaries – it affects all countries.**

2. What stages of the plastic pollution problem will the UN's legally binding international treaty try to tackle?

**The UN treaty aims to target plastic at all stages of use.**

3. How much plastic waste is it estimated there will be on the planet by 2040?

**At the current rate of production there'll be an estimated 1.3 billion tonnes of plastic on the planet by 2040.**

4. Who thinks this treaty will be better for people and the planet?

**Environment groups say the resolution will be better for people and the planet.**