

## BAMBOO AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR PLASTIC INITIATIVE LAUNCHED AT THE GLOBAL BAMBOO AND RATTAN INBAR CONGRESS

In November 2022, as part of the [Opening Ceremony of the Second Bamboo and Rattan Congress \(BARC 2022\)](#), the International Organization INBAR and the Government of China formally launched the [Bamboo as a Substitute for Plastic Initiative](#).

On the website, INBAR underlines that “Bamboo is a precious treasure bestowed upon humankind by nature, has significant ecological, economic and social benefits. As a green, low-carbon, fast-growing, renewable and degradable biomass material, bamboo can play a unique role in addressing a number of global challenges such as climate change, poverty alleviation and ecological restoration. China and the International Bamboo and Rattan Organization are jointly launching the *Bamboo as a Substitute for Plastic Initiative*, aimed at deepening cooperation of the Global Development Initiative by realizing the outstanding advantages and potential of bamboo in reducing plastic pollution, replacing plastic products and providing a nature-based solution for energy-intensive and difficult-to-degrade plastic products, while making a positive contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”



### The formal text focus five key areas for implementing the *Substitute for Plastic Initiative*:

1. *Formulate supportive policies* to incorporate the Initiative into policy frameworks at international, regional and national levels; cooperate with relevant international organizations to facilitate formulation of international trade rules for inclusion of bamboo plastic substitute products into plastics replacements; support and help countries around the world formulate and popularize policies regarding the initiative; identify important industries and bamboo products to replace plastics; and provide policy guarantees for global development.
2. *Promote technological innovation*. Converge scientific and technological forces in the bamboo sector to deepen cooperation and foster innovation in the uses, efficiency and standardized development of bamboo products to replace plastics as well as generate the conditions for the adoption of new technologies and development of new products that can use “bamboo as a substitute for plastic”
3. *Encourage scientific global research institutions* to strengthen basic research into using bamboo as a substitute for plastic, to promote scientific innovation in global bamboo utilization as

well as build a scientific knowledge system such as material data and full life cycle databases that will establish the scientific theory and foundation of data for mitigating global plastic pollution and devising a global development policy framework.

4. *Promote market expansion*, facilitate the entry of bamboo products into the market and promote consumption through expert forums, exhibitions, demonstrations and public events at regional, national and international level. Widely publicize the diverse applications of bamboo in construction, decoration, furniture, papermaking, packaging, transportation, food, textiles, chemicals, handicrafts and disposable products. The promotion of bamboo products capable of replacing plastic with great market potential and good economic benefits will be prioritized.
5. *Enhance publicity*. Comprehensively promote the significant potential and value of bamboo as a nature-based solution and raise public awareness through participating in international fora such as the United Nations General Assembly, the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the World Forestry Congress, celebrating important international and national themed days and anniversaries such as World Earth Day, World Environment Day, and promoting activities on media platforms.

L'INBAR has a long experience of active participation in events organized by the international community, promoting bamboo as a green tool for lowering dependency on plastics and mitigating the effects of climate change. The *Bamboo as a Substitute for Plastic Initiative* has been recently presented by INBAR at CO 27. With [47 Member States](#), most of which are producers of bamboo and rattan and a high-level of technical team that associates experts from around the world, this intergovernmental organization established in 1997 in Beijing, China, is charged to coordinate the new initiative.

The *Bamboo as a Substitute for Plastic Initiative* was launched in the BARC 2022 Congress, organized by the Chinese Government and INBAR with the theme “Bamboo and Rattan — Nature-based Solutions for Sustainable Development.” Over 1000 participants from INBAR Member States, international organizations, non-governmental organizations as well as research institutes, universities and enterprises participated in the two-day Congress in both offline and online formats, making great progress in mainstreaming bamboo and rattan as important forest resources in the fight against climate change, the biodiversity crisis and global poverty.

Furthermore, [in February 2023 INBAR established an alliance](#) with the [Global Partnership on Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter](#) (GPML) to promote the myriad sustainable applications of bamboo and rattan that contribute to the overall health of the planet's oceans. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provides secretariat services to the GPML, which was launched in 2012 at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and unites actors around the world working to prevent marine litter and plastic pollution.

On the INBAR website it will be possible to find all necessary information to participate in this important initiative.

**To know more**



[INBAR Second Global Bamboo and Rattan Congress | International Bamboo and Rattan Organization](#)

[INBAR website](#)

[INBAR Annual Highlights 2021 – INBAR](#)

[Reducing plastic pollution with Bamboo - INBAR](#)

[Bamboo as a Plastic Alternative: Fact Sheet – INBAR](#)

[Bamboo as a Substitute for Plastic Initiative – document](#)

[Bamboo: the forgotten solution at COP 25 | \(inbar.int\)](#)

[Bamboo at the International Plastic Ban Forum | \(inbar.int\)](#)

[International Bamboo and Rattan Organization UN Framework Convention on Climate Change COP 27 | \(inbar.int\)](#)

[Bamboo and Rattan Update | International Bamboo and Rattan Organization \(inbar.int\)](#)

[INBAR joins Global Partnership on Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter](#)

