

# THE LANCET



BOSTON COLLEGE  
Global Observatory on Planetary Health



UNIVERSITÄT  
HEIDELBERG  
ZUKUNFT  
SEIT 1386



in collaboration with

**TESS** Forum on Trade,  
Environment,  
& the SDGs

## EVENT INFORMATION NOTE

### ***Panel event: Announcing The Lancet Countdown on Health and Plastics***

#### **In-person and online**

- Date:** Monday, 4 August 2025
- Time:** 07:30 – 08:45 CEST, with coffee and refreshments available from 07:15 for those attending in person
- Location:** Auditorium at the Domaine de la Pastorale, Rte de Ferney 106, 1202 Geneva (opposite the Intercontinental Hotel; 15 minutes walk from Palais des Nations) & webcast
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Coinciding with the second part of the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC 5.2), a new report published in *The Lancet* will offer an up-to-date assessment of the links between health and plastic pollution across the full life cycle of plastic and announces the launch of an independent, health-focused global monitoring system on plastics: The Lancet Countdown on Health and Plastics.

Inspired by the model and impact of the Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change (<https://lancetcountdown.org>), this new Countdown will track the impacts of plastic pollution on human health across all stages of the plastics life cycle, and monitor progress on addressing these impacts from a health perspective. It will identify and regularly report on a suite of scientifically meaningful and geographically and temporally representative indicators across all stages of the plastic life cycle. In doing so, it will provide independent data that can continue to inform decision-making for the benefit of public health.

This event will be an opportunity for delegates attending INC5.2 and stakeholders around the world to gather to hear:

- the latest evidence on the impacts of plastic pollution on human health;
- opportunities to address these impacts in the future plastics treaty to ensure protection of human health and the environment; and
- the contribution that the new Lancet Countdown on Health and Plastics can make as an independent data source to inform decision-making at all levels for the benefit of public health.

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## SPEAKERS & PANELLISTS

Welcome remarks by **Maria Neira**, former Director, Department of Environmental, Climate Change and Health, World Health Organization (retired)

Introductory remarks by [**Richard Horton**, editor-in-chief, *The Lancet*]

Panel of experts:

- **Prof Martin Wagner**, co-author of *The Lancet* report and Co-Lead of the Lancet Plastics and Health Countdown working group on production and emissions
- **Dr Jane Muncke**, co-author of *The Lancet* report and Co-Lead of the Lancet Plastics and Health Countdown working group on exposures
- **Dr Christos Symeonides**, co-author of *The Lancet* report and member of the Lancet Plastics and Health Countdown working group on health impacts
- **Jo Banner**, Co-founder and Co-director, The Descendants Project
- [**Alexander Mangwiro**, co-author of *The Lancet* report; Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, United Nations Environment Program]
- [**John Chweya**, President, Kenya National Waste Pickers Welfare Association]

Panel of government representatives:

- [*Delegate representatives to be confirmed*]

Closing remarks by **Carolyn Deere Birkbeck**, Executive Director, Forum on Trade, Environment and the SDGs (TESS)