



ABIQUM LAUNCHES VOLUNTARY COMMITMENT IN FAVOR OF CIRCULAR ECONOMY¹ IN PLASTIC RESIN SECTOR

Plastic resins manufacturers - members of the Brazilian Chemical Industry Association (Abiquim) - launch their voluntary commitment in order to promote and enhance the outreach of Circular Economy in plastic packaging.

Plastics are largely used in all value chains. They are vital to meet the modern society's demand and to contribute to products sustainability due to their innovative features and competitive costs, along with their unique composition and exclusive lightness, durability, flexibility, moldability, versatility and recyclability properties. In addition, plastic plays a vital role in reducing the emission of greenhouse gases effect, representing the best solution to the most efficient use of natural resources in many day by day applications: health, food conservation, basic sanitation, among many others.

In order to assure a sustainable implementation of the Circular Economy, it is of utmost importance to have a joint effort of all parts of plastic value chain, governments and society towards:

- *Increasing efforts in the value chain aiming at designing and providing sustainable packaging solutions, by improving reutilization and recycling.
- *Investing in research and development aiming at the improvement of reutilization technologies and re-appreciation of plastics, including mechanical, chemical and energy recycling, composting, in addition to further solutions that may arise.
- *Enhancing quality standards for recycled plastic resins aiming at their application and use;
- *Monitoring the rates of recycling and reutilization of plastic packaging;
- *Developing the recycling chain reverse logistics;
- *Fostering educational programs aiming at the reduction of plastic waste, conscious use, appropriate collection, sorting out, recycling and reuse.

(1) Circular economy improves competitiveness and resources efficiency, since products are used for as longer time as possible. Resources, at the end of their lifecycle, can still be used or upgraded by means of mechanical and chemical recycling, energy recovery or composting"

(2) Pellet: plastic resins in small pieces which are used as raw material to manufacture plastic products".

The management of solid waste represents a global challenge, and there is an increasing concern about plastic wastes. In this context, the manufacturers of plastic resins, members of the Brazilian Chemical Industry Association, show their commitment to the existing challenges and adopt the following aspirational goal:

- By 2040, 100% of the plastic packaging will be reused, recycled or recovered

From now on, such companies will elaborate a multi-annual plan aiming at achieving this goal. They set an ambitious and intermediate goal:

- By 2030, 50% of plastic packaging will be reused, recycled or recovered.

Additionally, in order to highlight their commitment to directly contribute to the marine litter issue, as well as to the Responsible Care Program @the companies also establish that:

- By 2020, 100% of manufacturers of plastic resins, members of Abiquim, should adopt the best practices of “Zero Pellets² Loss Manual” of Plastic Sector Forum – For Cleaner Oceans.

Abiquim understands that only a joint effort can help achieve such goals. This requires an upgrade in the way we plan, produce and recycle plastic packaging. Therefore, this voluntary commitment represents an Open Invitation to customers, stakeholders, sectors associations and society to work together towards Circular Economy, understating environmental impacts and generating benefits to all citizens.

By taking the three sustainability pillars into account – environmental, economic and social – we acknowledge the importance of recycling for employment and income generation in Brazil. It is important to highlight that Abiquim promotes the development of Circular Economy in all sectors of the Chemical Industry. Everyone should prioritize efforts to generate and recover the intrinsic value of post-consumption plastics.