

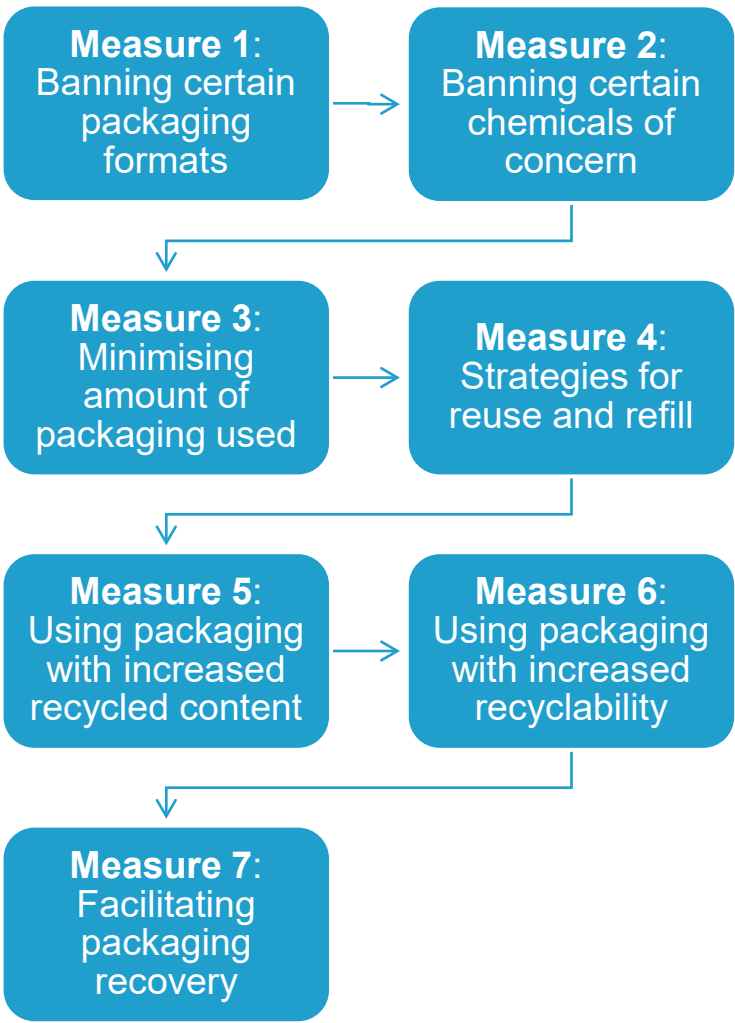
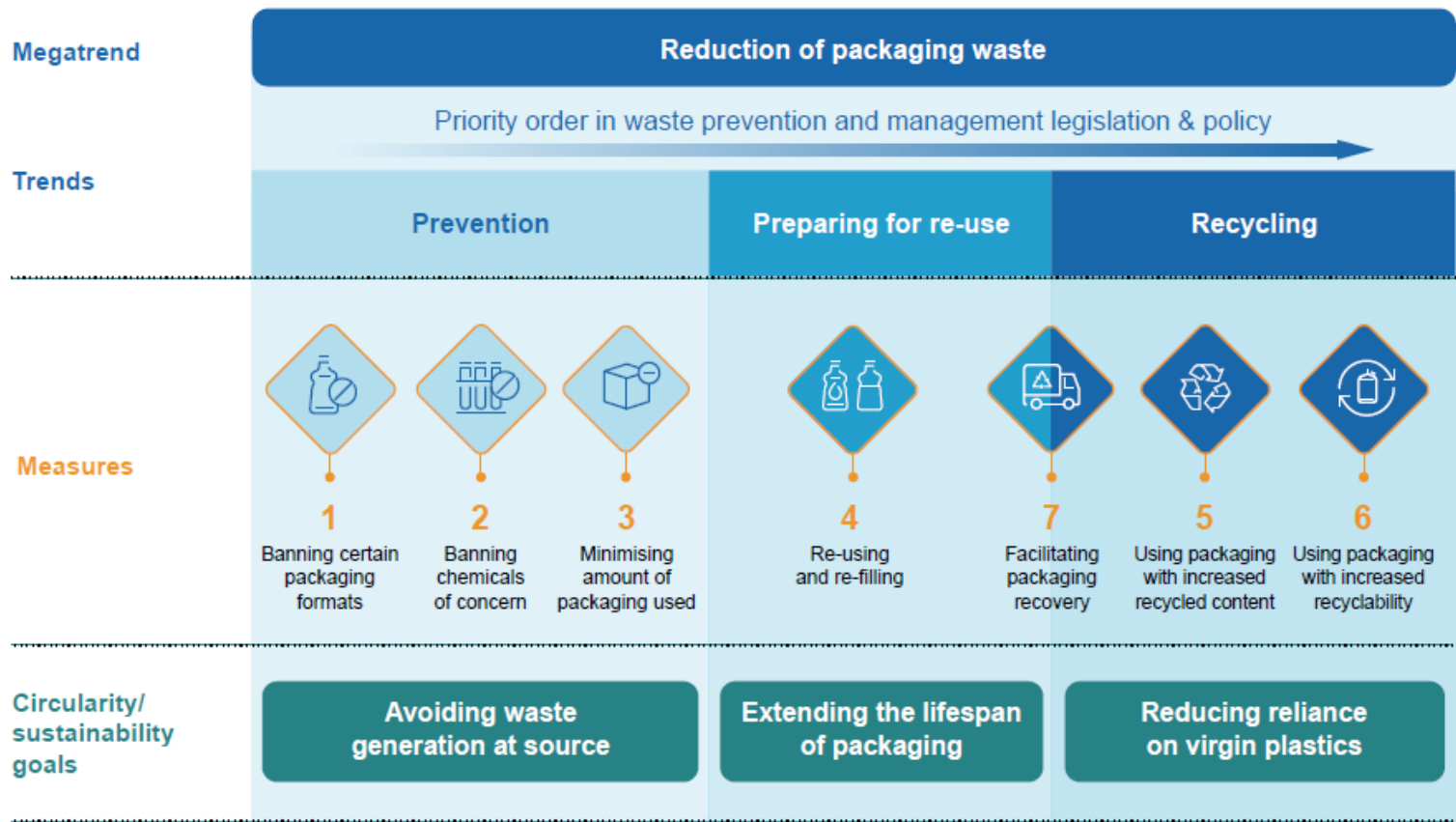
**leatherhead
food research**

part of SAGENTIA REGULATORY

International Regulatory Strategies for Reducing Packaging Waste

Mark Moss, Head of Regulatory Europe

Global regulators shift focus to smarter design, reuse systems, and high-quality recycling



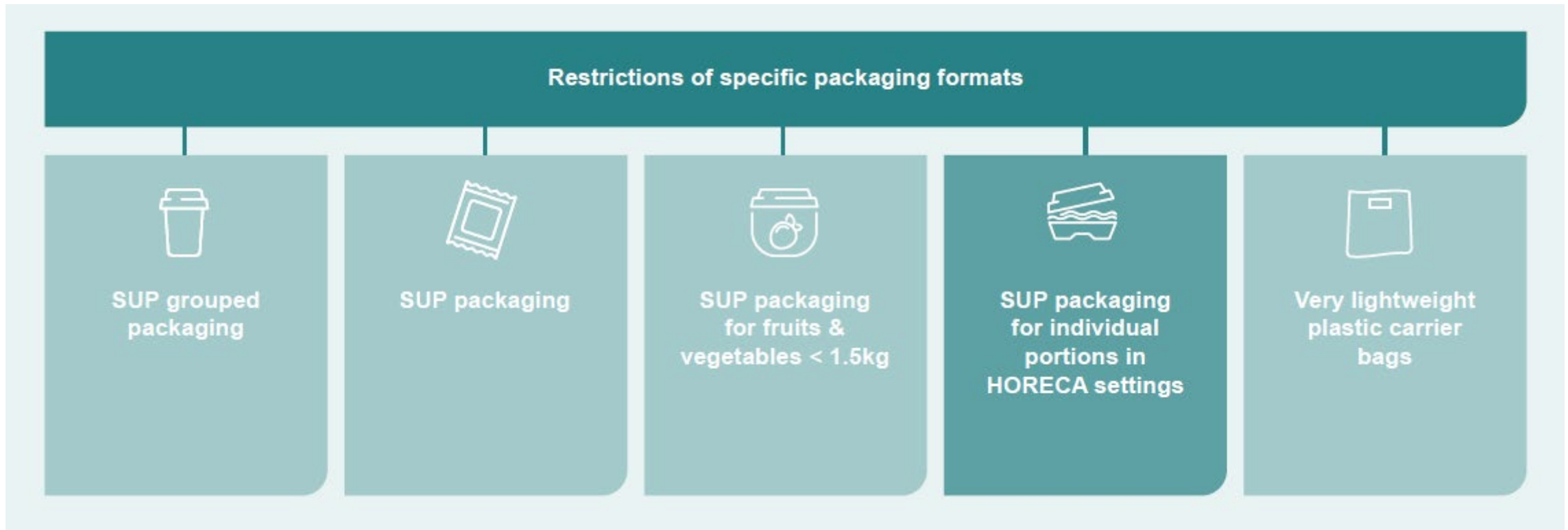
Measure 1: Banning certain packaging formats



No unified approach: Single-use plastic bans still governed by regional regulations

<p>China</p> <p>In 2025, China will fully ban plastic bags and require restaurants and hotels to eliminate single-use plastic items.</p>	<p>India</p> <p>In July 2022, India banned 19 single-use items deemed to have low utility and a high potential to become litter.</p>	<p>USA – State by state approach</p> <p>California will push toward its 25% single-use plastic reduction target, while balloon release bans and local bag levies remain active in many states. However, 17 states still block local plastic bans, creating legal challenges for environmental progress.</p>
<p>United Arab Emirates</p> <p>Implemented a nationwide ban on single-use plastic bags and will enforce a comprehensive ban on single-use plastic items, such as cutlery, straws, and food containers, starting 2026.</p>	<p>Brazil – Regional approach</p> <p>Brazil passed a draft bill in 2023 to ban single-use plastics made from non-compostable materials, but not yet implemented.</p> <p>Many local governments continue enforcing bans on bags, straws, and other single-use items.</p>	<p>Australia – State by state approach</p> <p>Different states have banned single-use plastics like plastic-stemmed cotton buds, balloon and polystyrene fill.</p>

Global focus shifts from polystyrene to broader single-use plastic packaging bans



Restrictions SUP packaging for individual portions



Australia

Australia Packaging Reform

Australia's national packaging reform is underway with EiF expected in 2026-2027 and some state bans on individual portion sachets.



Brazil

Brazil's Plastic Circular Economy

Brazil proposes phasing out SUPs including bans on individual portion packaging, with EiF one year after bill publication.



Chile

Chile's Food Service Prohibition

Chile prohibits individually packaged portions in food service from 2026, with exceptions for takeaway if requested and packaging certified.



Key messages!

- SUP sachets for condiments and sauces face growing bans in HORECA settings
- Chile has implemented explicit restrictions; others, such as Brazil and Australia, are progressing

Measure 2: Banning chemicals of concern (PFAS, ODPs)



Phasing out forever chemicals in food-contact packaging



Australia

July 2025

Australia's ban on the import, use and manufacture of three types of "forever chemical" came into effect. These chemicals – PFOA, PFOS and PFHxS.



Canada

2028-2030

Canada plans to phase out PFAS in food packaging by 2028/30, with toxic labelling and broader restrictions under consultation.



China

2019

Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride are prohibited.

Brazilian National PFAS Control Policy

The policy's primary goal is to control and progressively reduce the presence of PFAS in the environment.

Proposes parties using PFAS in their production processes must submit annual reports (consumption and disposal), as well as adopting measures to reduce their use and progressively eliminate their presence in products and production processes.

The bill, introduced in May 2023 is still under deliberation in Congress.

Measure 3: Minimising amount of packaging used



South Korea leads with world's strictest packaging void space rule since 2024 ahead of EU rules



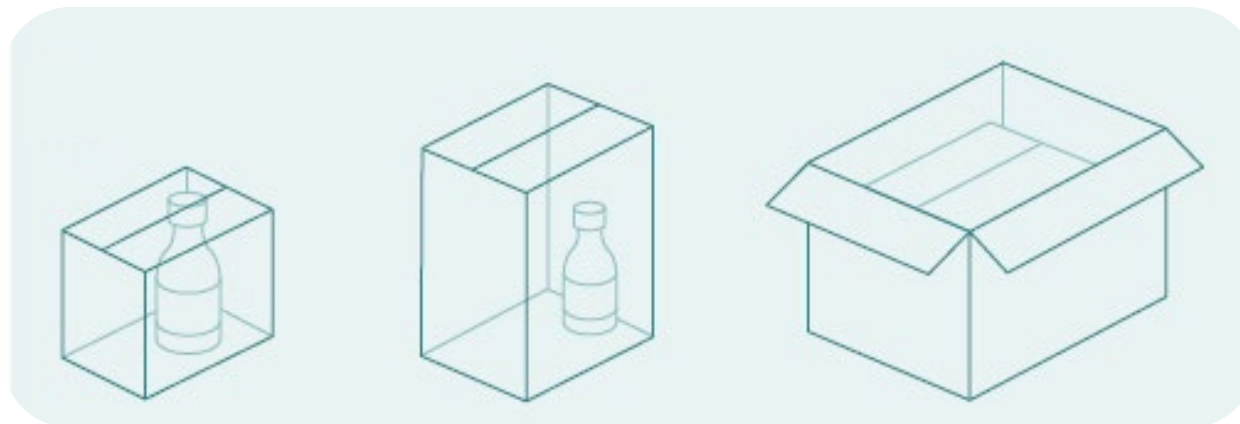
China

Mandates void ratios for all primary (sales), secondary and tertiary packaging.



South Korea

Mandates empty space ratios for commodities including food and beverage products.



Measure 4: Strategies for reuse and refill



Reusable PET bottles present greater complexity and market segmentation



Measure 5: Using packaging with increased recycled content



Global targets for minimum recycled content

Country and Plastic Type	2021	2025	2026	2028	2030	2040	2050	
Canada - Flexible plastic			10%		80%			
Canada - Rigid plastic			20%		60%			
Chile - Plastic bottles	15%				25%	50%	70%	
EU - Contact-sensitive PET					30%	50%		
EU - Contact-sensitive non-PET					10%	25%		
EU - Other plastic packaging					35%	65%		
EU - SUP beverage bottles					30%	65%		
India - Category I (Rigid)		30%		60%				
India - Category II (Flexible)		10%		20%				
India - Category III (Multilayered)		5%		10%				
South Africa - Flexible PET beverage bottles			50%		80%			
South Africa - PET beverage bottles			10%		20%			Draft
South Africa - SUPs			8%		20%			Finalised
South Korea - PET bottles			10%					

Japan sets PET bottle certification standards to boost recyclability and recycled content from 2026

Driver

Circular economy **policy**

Maturity

Established

Product categories

PET bottles



The story

- The new criteria, jointly developed by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, apply to **soft drink PET bottles** and require:
 - Uncoloured bottles made from a single material (PET only)
 - A minimum of 15% recycled or bio-based plastic content
 - No direct printing on the bottle body (except for essential markings)
 - Labels that are easily removable and not made of PVC

Regulations

- Act on Promotion of Resource Circulation for Plastics




Measure 6: Using packaging with increased recyclability



EU leads global recyclability assessment standards; South Korea enforces on-pack labelling system



Effective from 2030, the PPWR states that the mandatory recyclability grading for all packaging becomes enforceable:

Grade A	Grade A: ≥95% recyclable – e.g., clear PET bottles, aluminium cans, mono-material packaging → lowest	
Grade B	Grade B: ≥80% – e.g., multilayer pouches → moderate	
Grade C	Grade C: ≥70% – e.g., composite cartons (i.e., paper with aluminium/plastic layers) → highest	
Below Grade C	Below Grade C banned from 2030; below Grade B banned from 2038	



South Korea uses a four-tier labelling system on packaging to indicate recyclability

Best to Recycle (재활용 최우수)
Good to Recycle (재활용 우수)
Normal to Recycle (재활용 보통)
Difficult to Recycle (재활용 어려움)



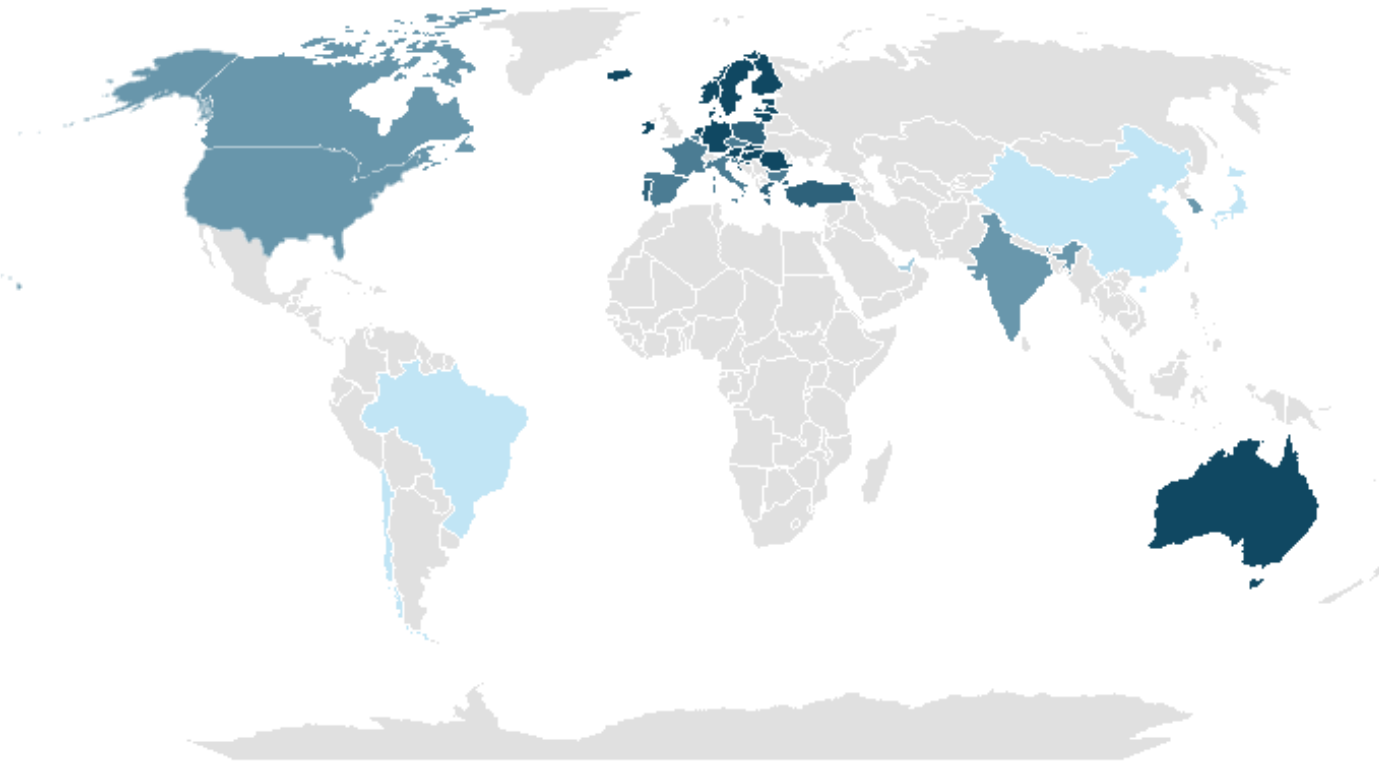
The draft regulation proposes a binary recyclability labelling system for plastics, without graded tiers

Free collection for ≥ 80% of population
≥ 80% sorted to North American re-processors
≥ 80% re-processing yield

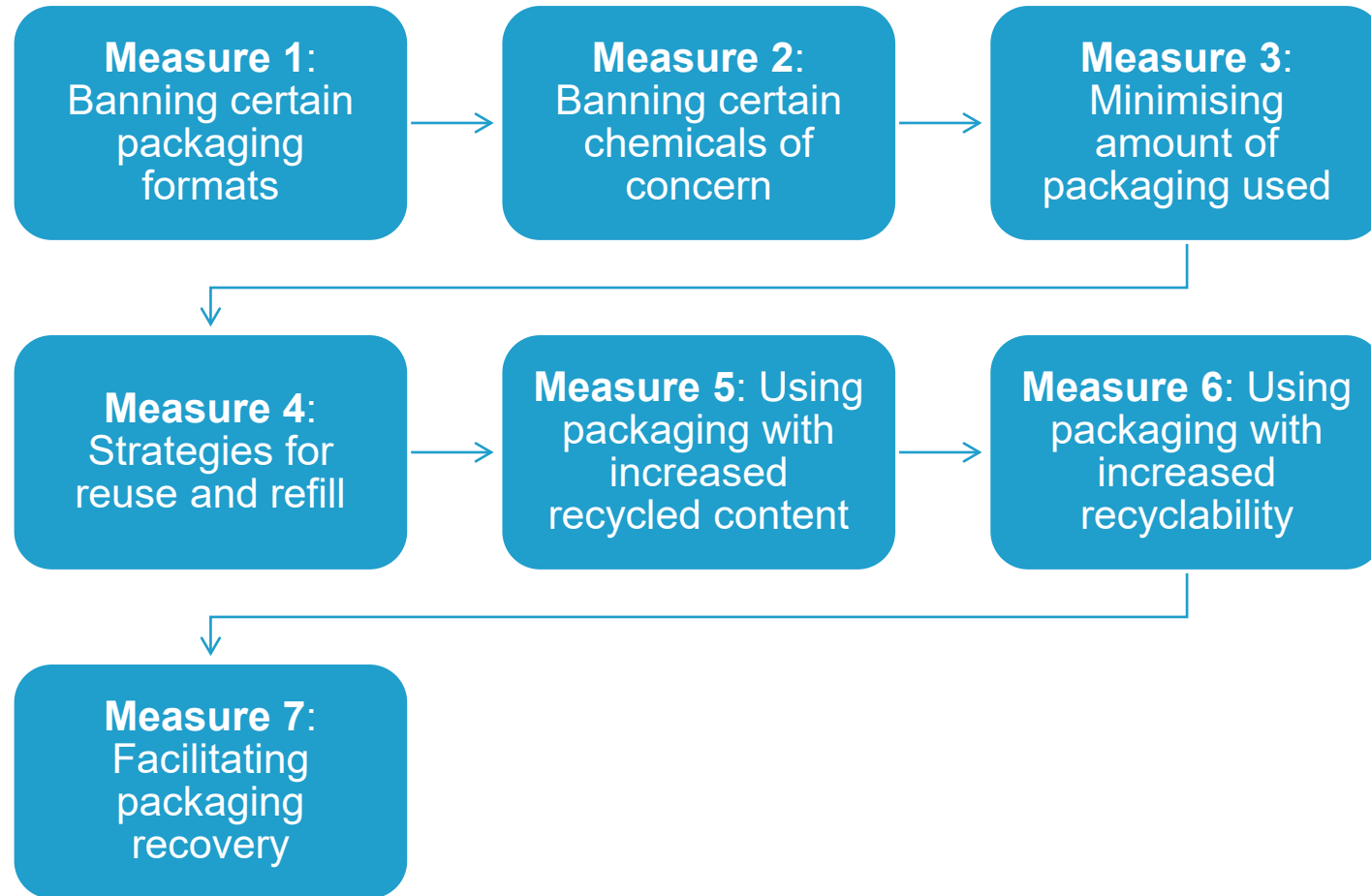
Measure 7: Facilitating packaging recovery



A global snapshot reveals uneven progress in Deposit Return Schemes (DRS) adoption, with some countries leading through legislation while others lag behind



Conclusion



Questions?

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