



# Positions of all countries in the world on global plastics treaty (after INC-4)

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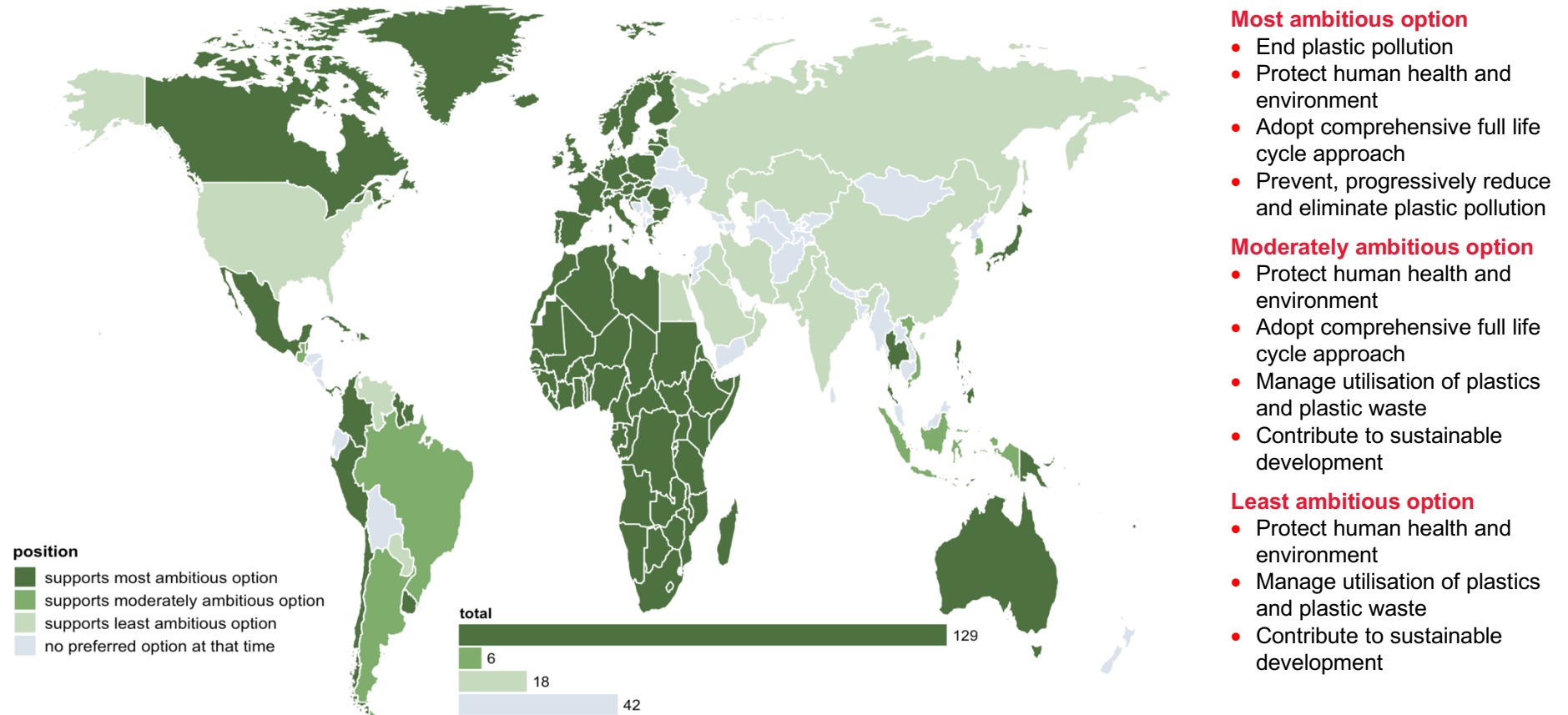
## Background and methodology

Plastic pollution poses a significant global threat, impacting both the environment and human health. In response to this challenge, international negotiations commenced in late 2022 to develop a global treaty aimed at mitigating plastic pollution. These discussions were initiated following Resolution 5/14 of the United Nations Environment Assembly, which called for member states to create a legally binding international agreement to tackle plastic pollution, including its effects on marine ecosystems. To facilitate this process, an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) was established and has convened four times by October 2024. Following the initial negotiation rounds, the committee's chair produced a draft treaty text.

This report provides an analysis of the positions held by all countries in the world.<sup>1</sup> Data was gathered on-site at INC-4 from delegation representatives and official submissions from states.<sup>2</sup> The collected positions were systematically recorded in a database and categorized based on different criteria, including the ambition level of the proposed options. The analysis focuses on the core obligations where distinct options with varying levels of ambition were identifiable.

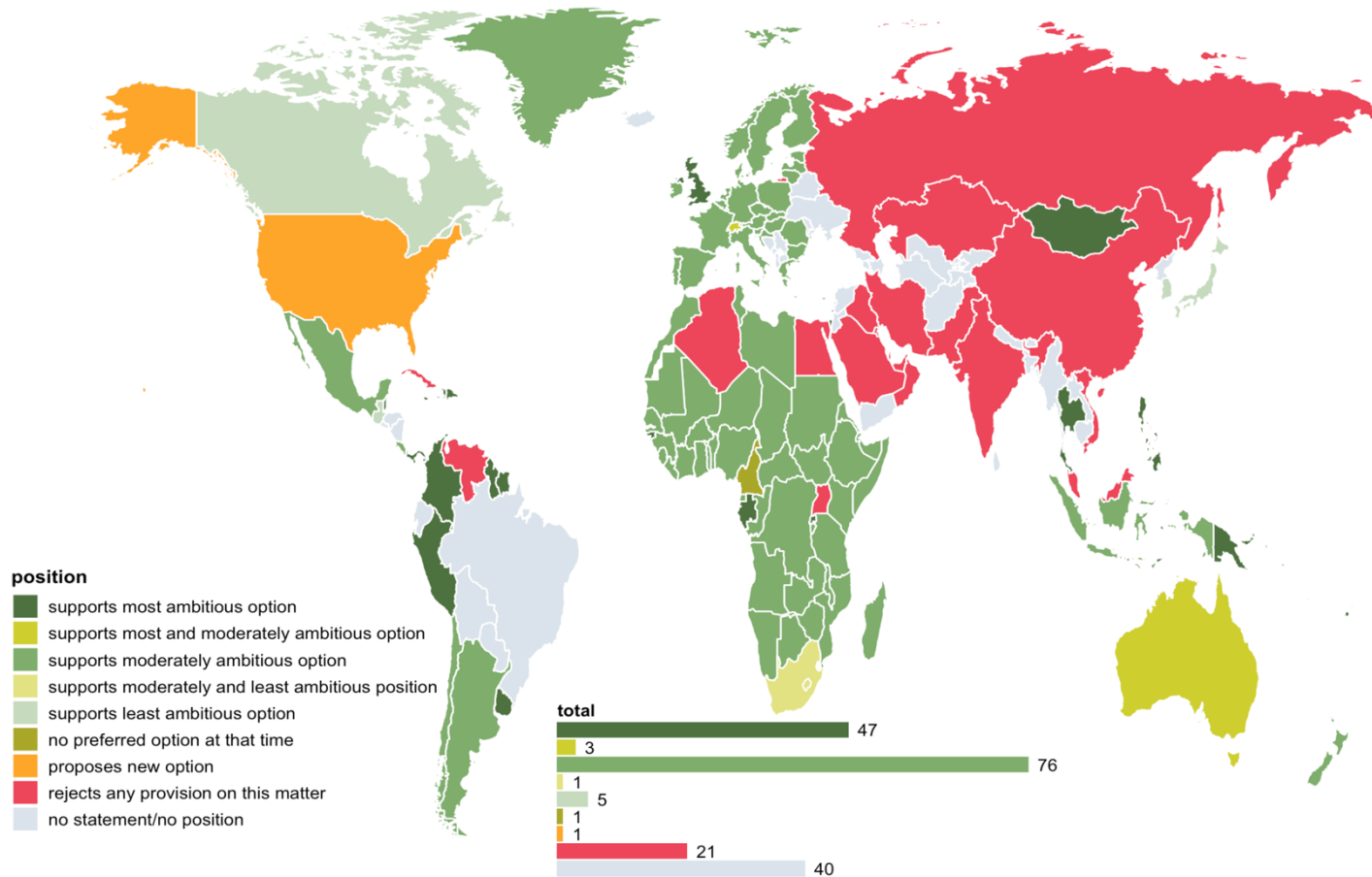
<sup>1</sup> Attendance of INC-4 was generously funded by the international project [PROMAR – Prevention of Marine Litter in the Caribbean Sea](#), which is funded by the *German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection*.

<sup>2</sup> A similar analysis of all country positions at INC-3 was published by SWITCH Asia, a programme on Sustainable Production and Consumption funded by the European Union: [Positions of All Countries on the Global Plastics Treaty](#).

Figure 1 Positions on objectives<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> All figures were produced with R and the packages *ggplot2*, *ggmap*, *cowplot* and *grid*.

**Figure 2** Positions on the limitation and reduction of the production and supply of primary plastic polymers



**Most ambitious option**

- Individual legal obligation for each country to limit its production and supply of primary plastic polymers
- Individual legally-binding targets for each country
- Global target must not be exceeded

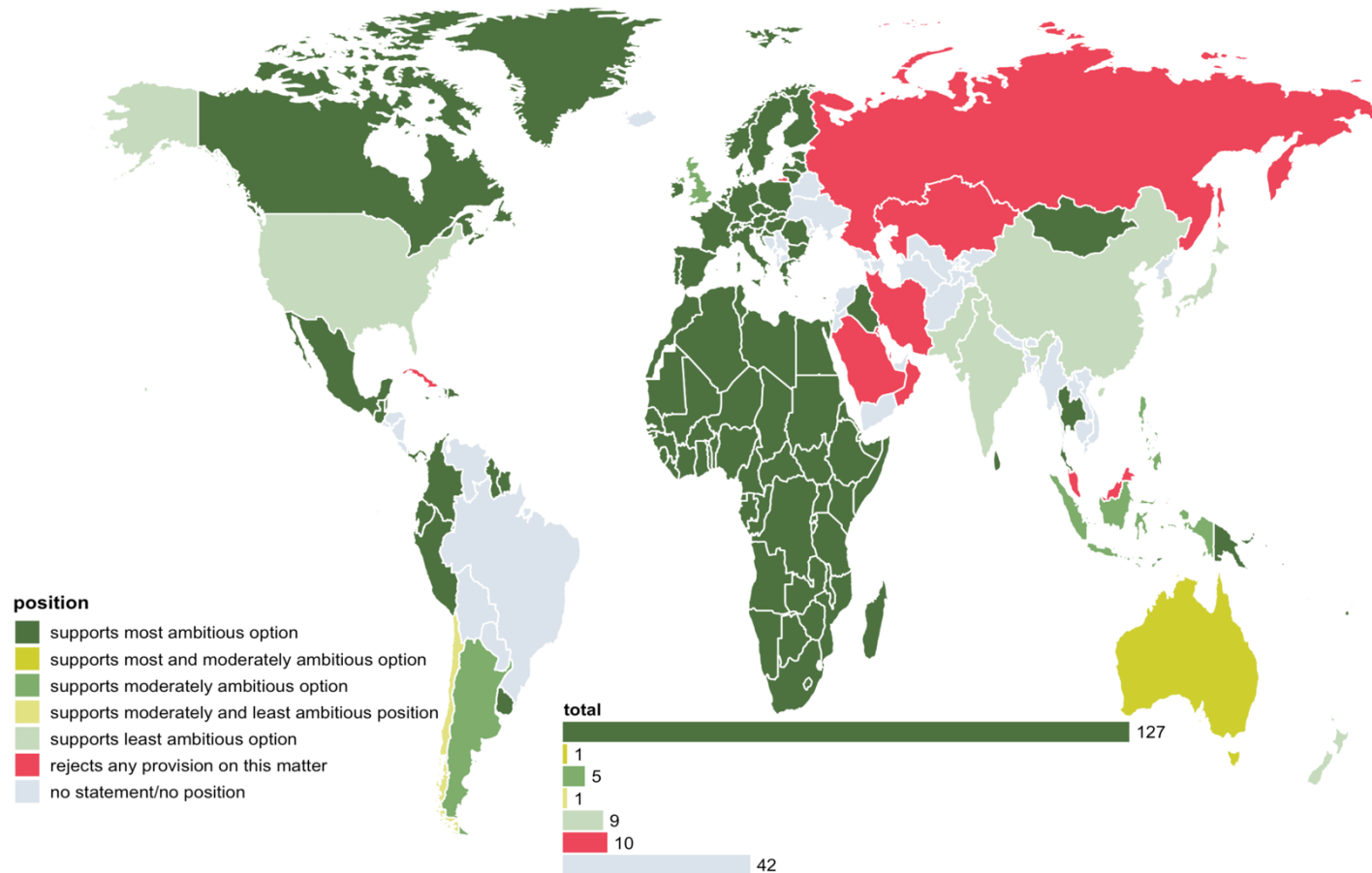
**Moderately ambitious option**

- Collective legal obligation of countries to manage and reduce global production and supply of primary plastic polymers
- Nationally determined targets that contribute to global target

**Least ambitious option**

- Collective legal obligation of countries to take necessary measures to manage and reduce global production and supply of primary plastic polymers

**Figure 3** Positions on phase-out, elimination and bans of chemicals and polymers of concern



#### Most ambitious option

- Individual legal obligation for each country to not allow and to eliminate the use, production, sale, distribution, import or export certain chemicals and polymers that are defined in an annex
- Global deadline

#### Moderately ambitious option

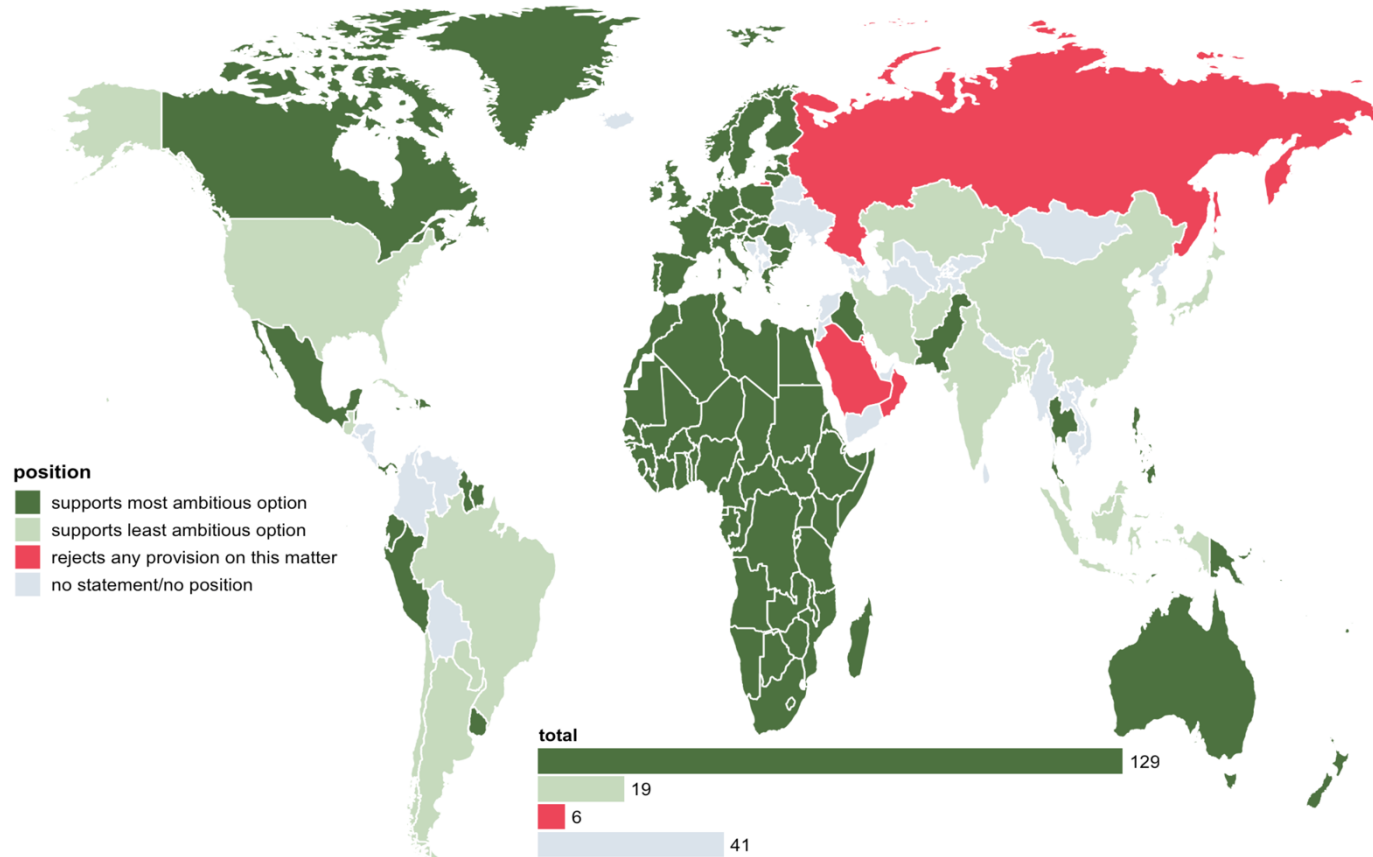
- Collective legal obligation of countries to minimise, to regulate and, as appropriate, to eliminate the use of certain chemicals and polymers with potential adverse effects on human health and environment in polymers, plastics and plastic products
- Definition of affected chemicals and polymers in annex

#### Least ambitious option

- Individual legal obligation to not allow or to regulate the use of certain chemicals and polymers with potential adverse effects on human health and environment in polymers, plastics and plastic products
- Definition of criteria to identify chemicals and polymers in annex



**Figure 4** Positions on phase-out, elimination and bans of problematic and avoidable plastic products



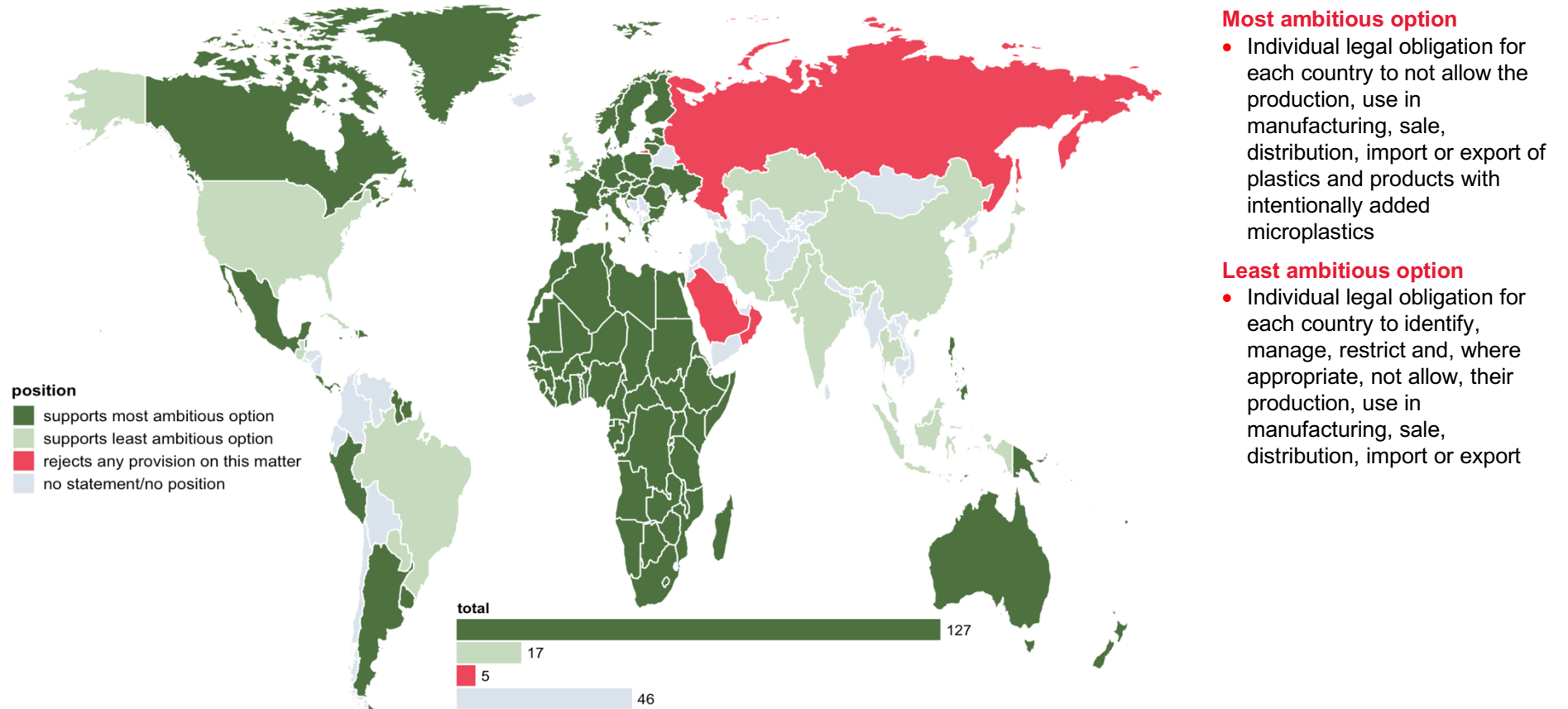
**Most ambitious option**

- Individual legal obligation for each country to not allow the production, sale, distribution, import or export of certain plastic products
- Global deadline
- Definition of affected plastic products in annex based on agreed criteria

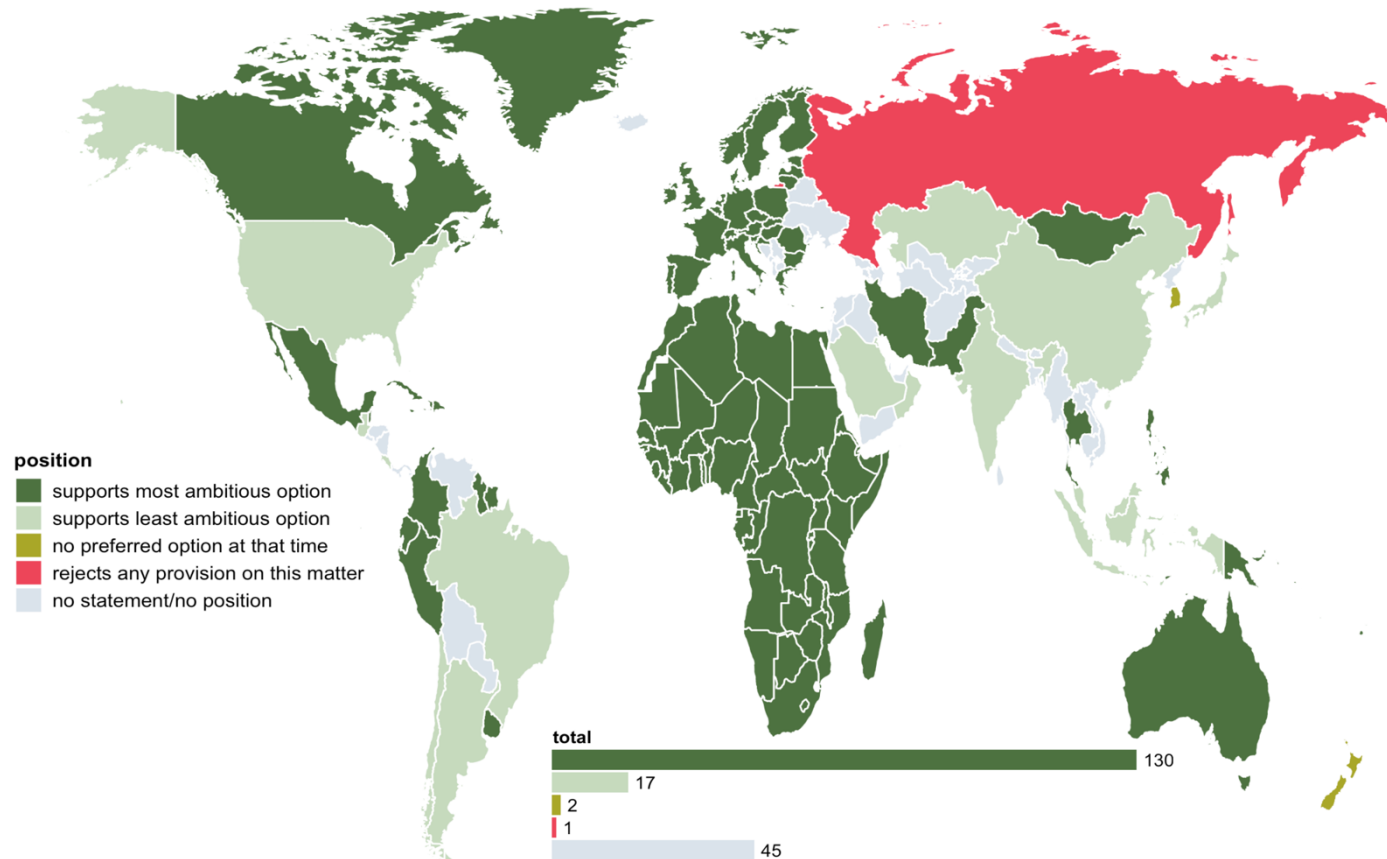
**Least ambitious option**

- Recommendation for each country to regulate and reduce the production, sale, distribution, import or export of certain plastic products
- Recommendation for each country to adopt nationally determined targets
- Definition of criteria to identify affected plastic products in annex

**Figure 5** Positions on ban on intentionally added microplastics



**Figure 6** Positions on minimum standards for design and performance of plastic products, including certification and labelling



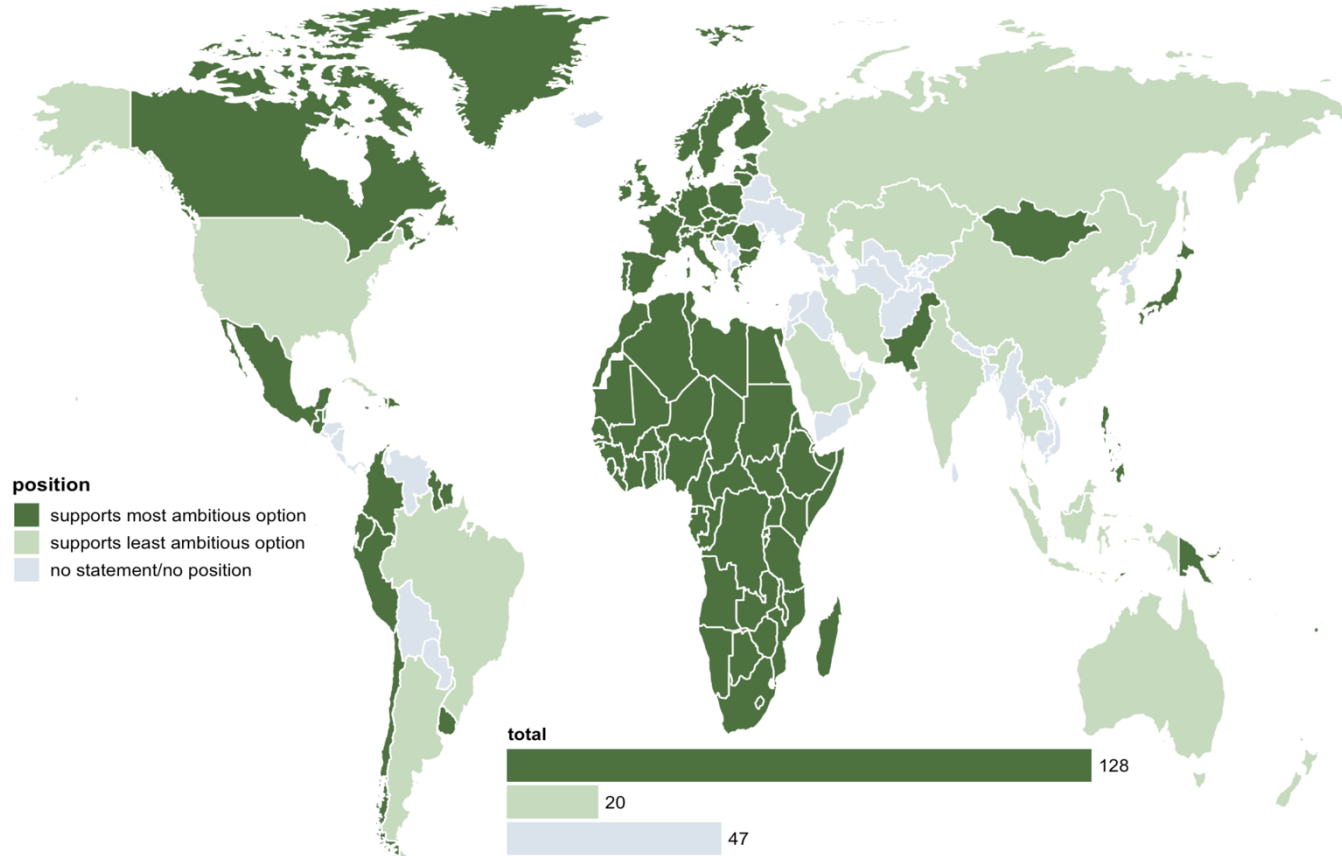
**Most ambitious option**

- Individual legal obligation for each country to adopt minimum design and performance criteria for plastic and plastic products produced and available within its territory
- Definition of minimum criteria in annex
- Individual legal obligation for each country to certify and label plastic and plastic products accordingly

**Least ambitious option**

- Recommendation for each country to adopt design and performance criteria that reduce the use of plastics and increase safety, durability, reusability, refillability, reparability and refurbishability

**Figure 7** Positions on the promotion of reduce, reuse, refill and repair of plastic products



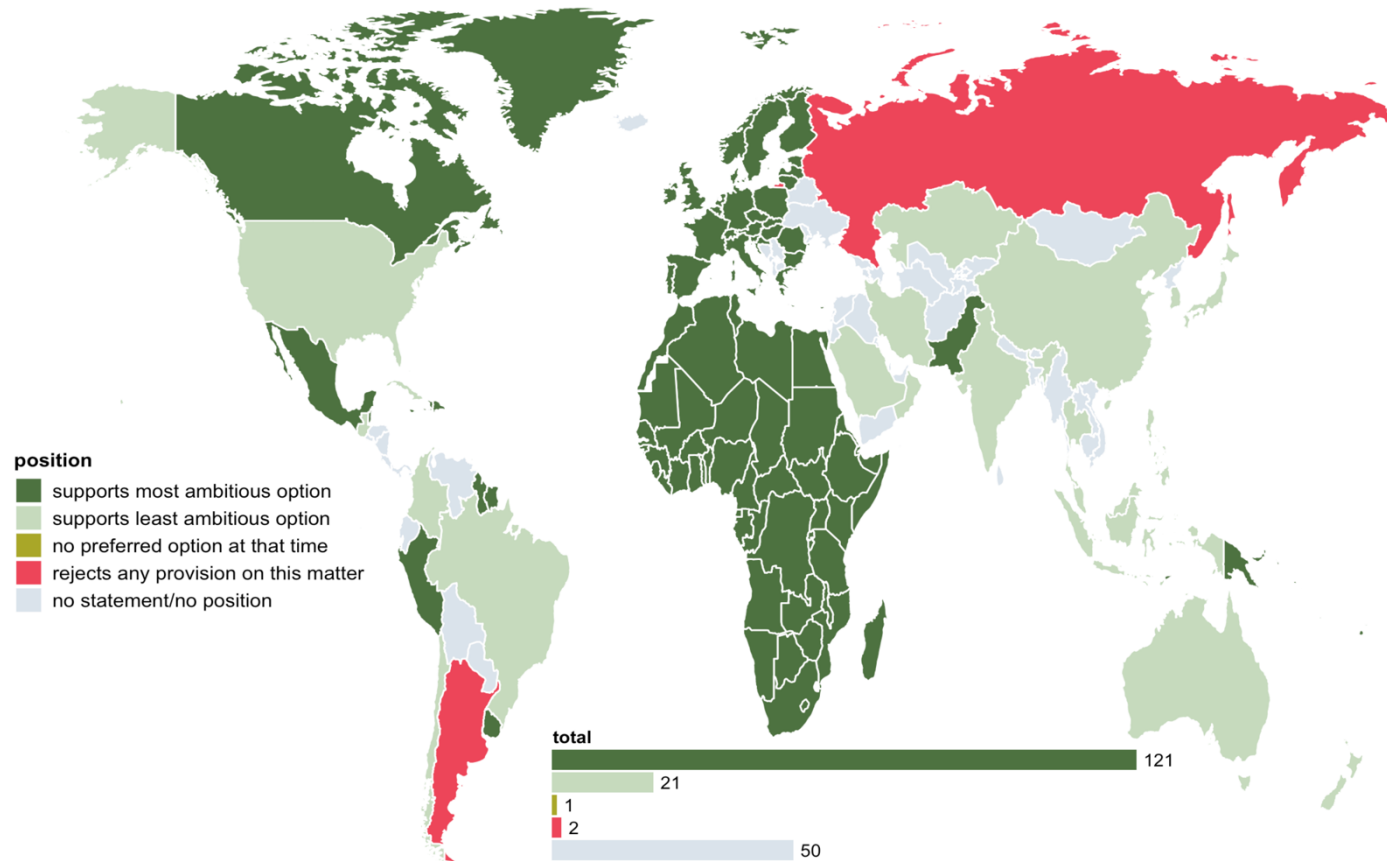
#### Most ambitious option

- Individual legal obligation for each country to promote the reduction, reuse, refill, repair, repurposing and refurbishment, as relevant, of plastics and plastic products produced and available within its territory
- Definition of minimum reduction, reuse, refill and repair targets and related timeframe in annex

#### Least ambitious option

- Individual legal obligation for each country to promote the reduction, reuse, refill, repair, repurposing and refurbishment, as relevant, of plastics and plastic products produced and available within its territory
- Recommendation for each country to adopt nationally determined targets

**Figure 8** Positions on increasing safe and environmentally sound recycled contents in plastics and plastic products



**Most ambitious option**

- Individual legal obligation for each country to adopt minimum share of safe and environmentally sound recycled content in plastics and plastic products produced and available within its territory
- Definition of minimum share and timeframe in annex

**Least ambitious option**

- Recommendation for each country to adopt minimum share of recycled content in plastics and plastic products produced and available within its territory

**Figure 9** Positions on safe, environmentally sound and sustainable alternative plastics and plastic products

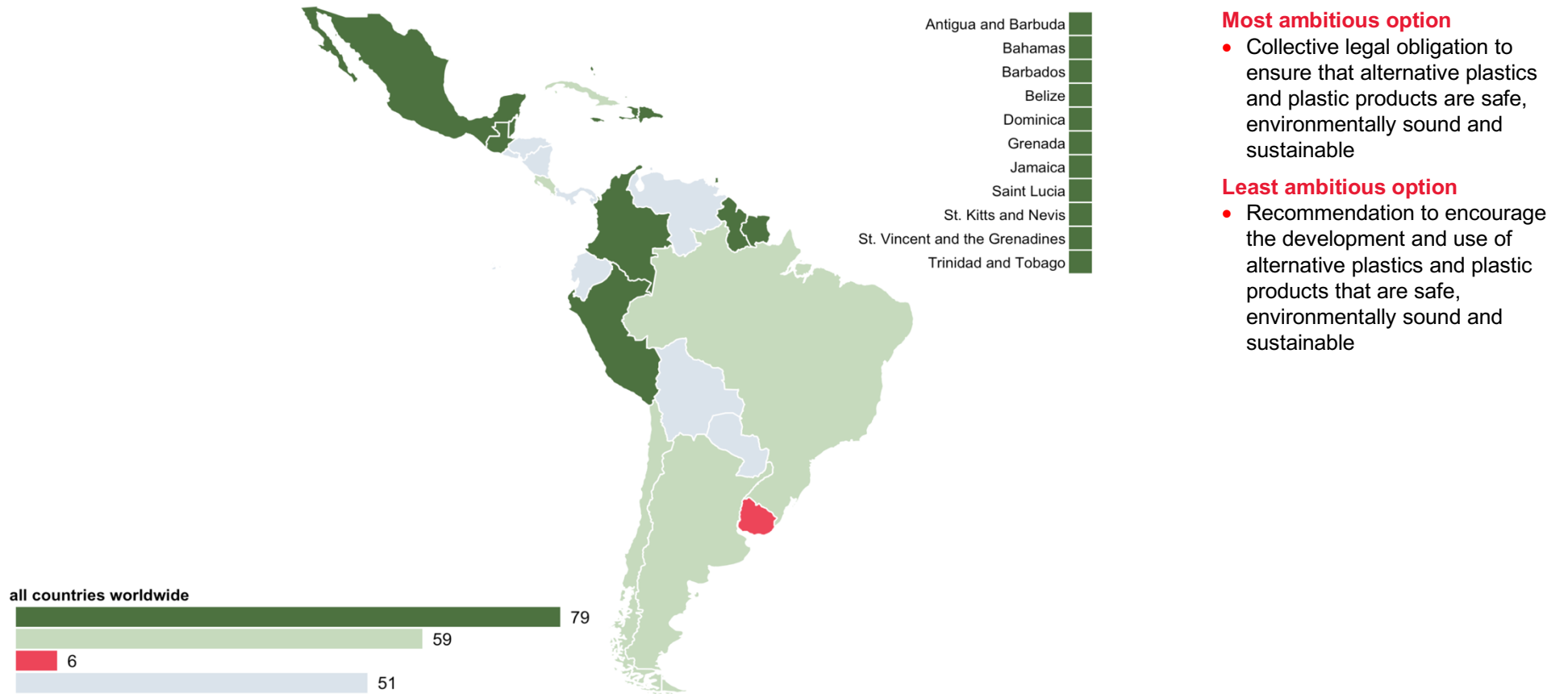
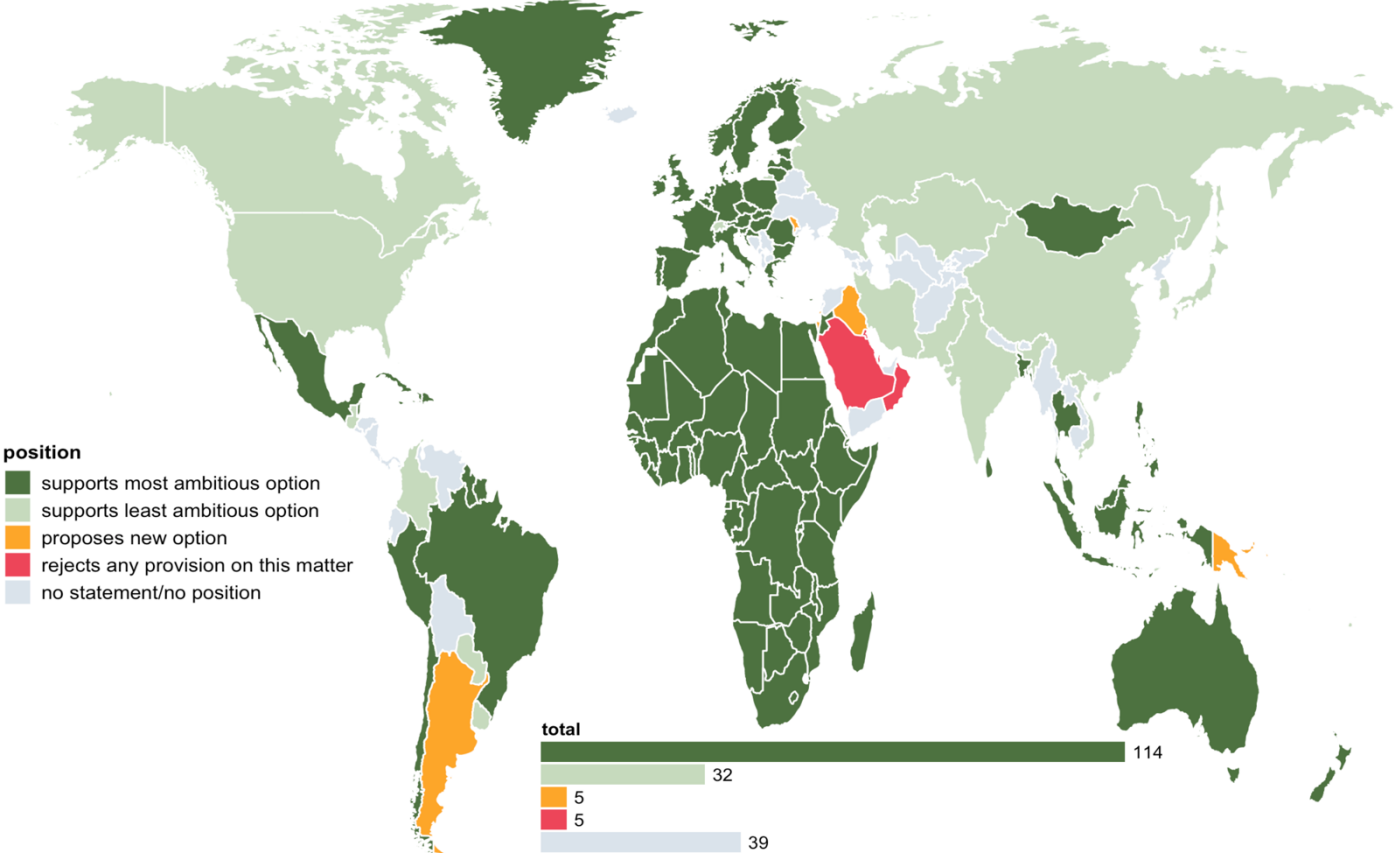
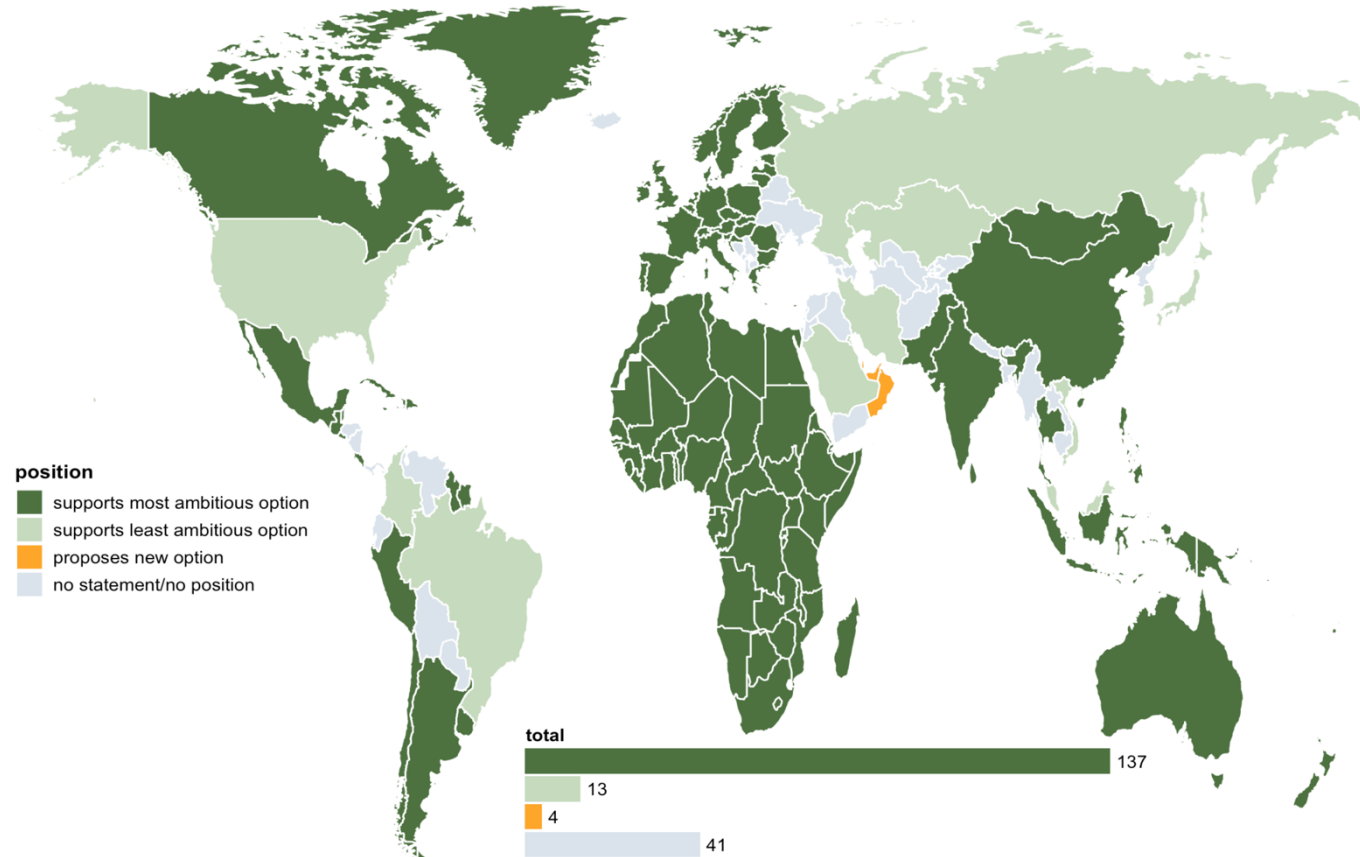


Figure 10 Positions on the introduction and design of extended producer responsibility schemes



- Most ambitious option**
- Individual legal obligation for each country to adopt an extended producer responsibility scheme
  - Definition of modalities of extended producer responsibility schemes in annex
- Least ambitious option**
- Encouragement of each country to adopt an extended producer responsibility scheme

**Figure 11** Positions on safe and environmentally sound waste management



#### Most ambitious option

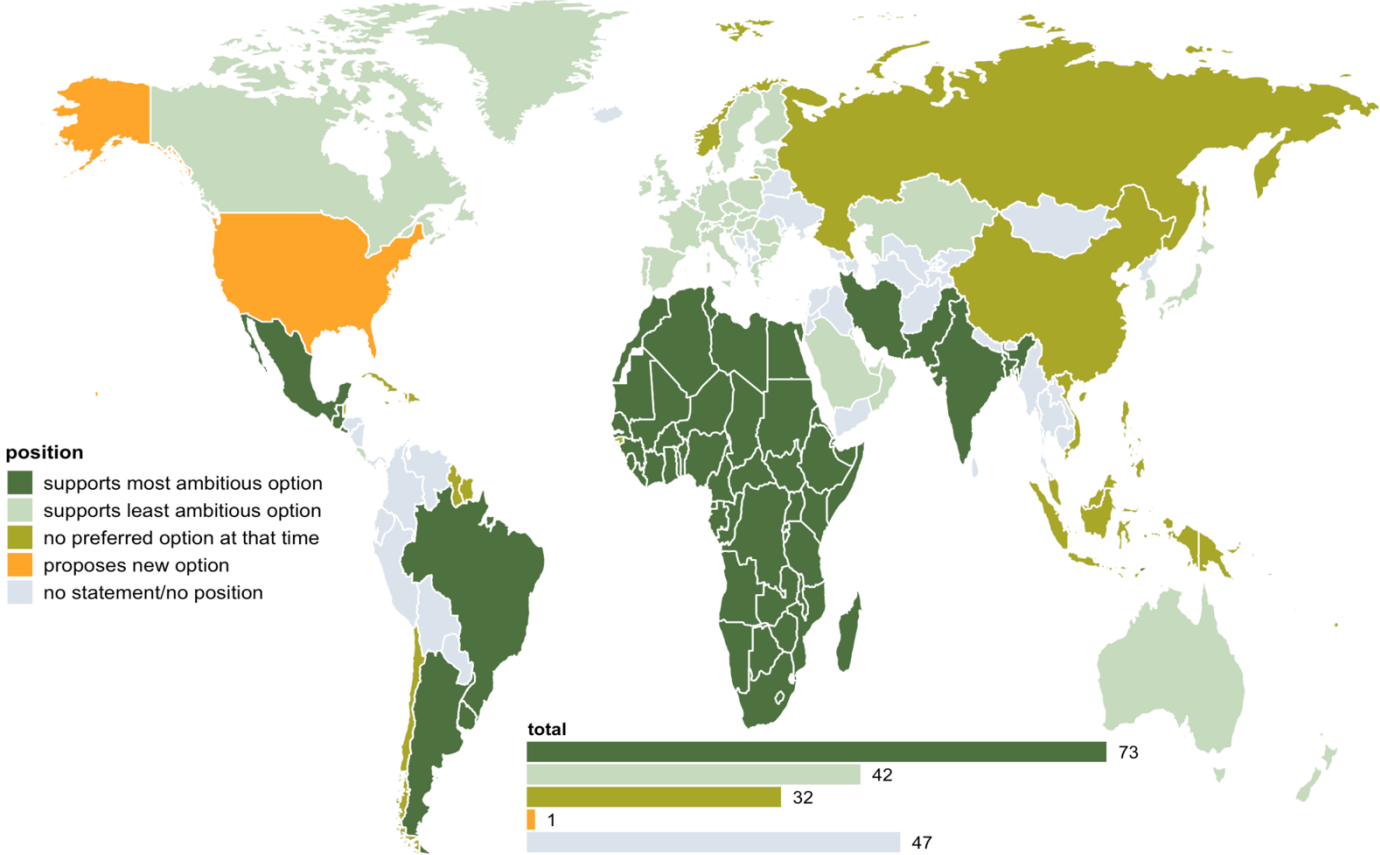
- Individual legal obligation for each country to ensure safe and environmentally sound handling, collection, transportation, storage, recycling and final disposal of plastic waste
- Consideration of waste hierarchy
- Individual legal obligation for each country to meet minimum collection, recycling and disposal rates
- Definition of minimum rates in annex

#### Least ambitious option

- Individual legal obligation for each country to ensure safe and environmentally sound handling, collection, transportation, storage, recycling and final disposal of plastic waste
- Nationally determined minimum requirements and targets

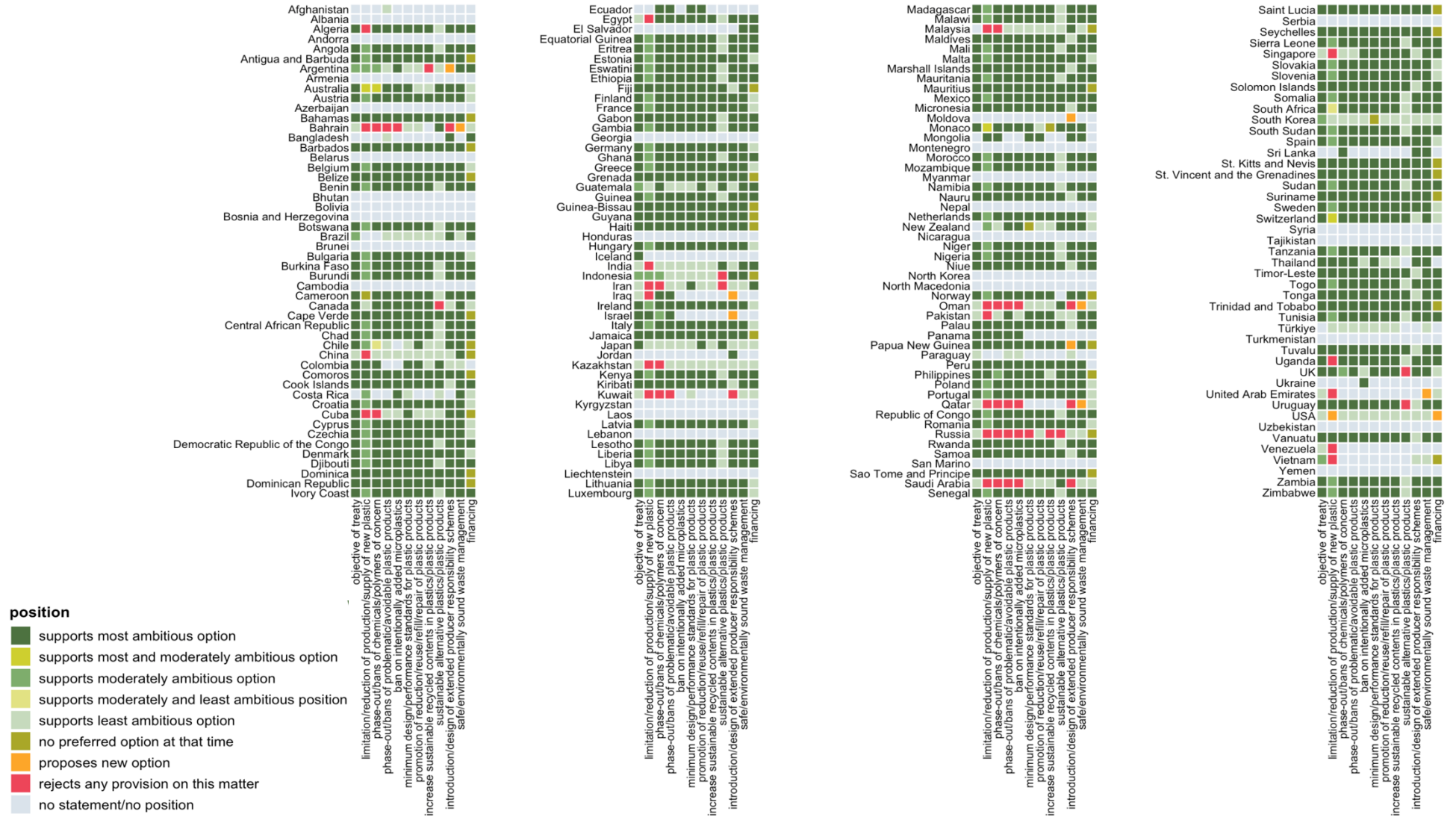


Figure 12 Positions on financing

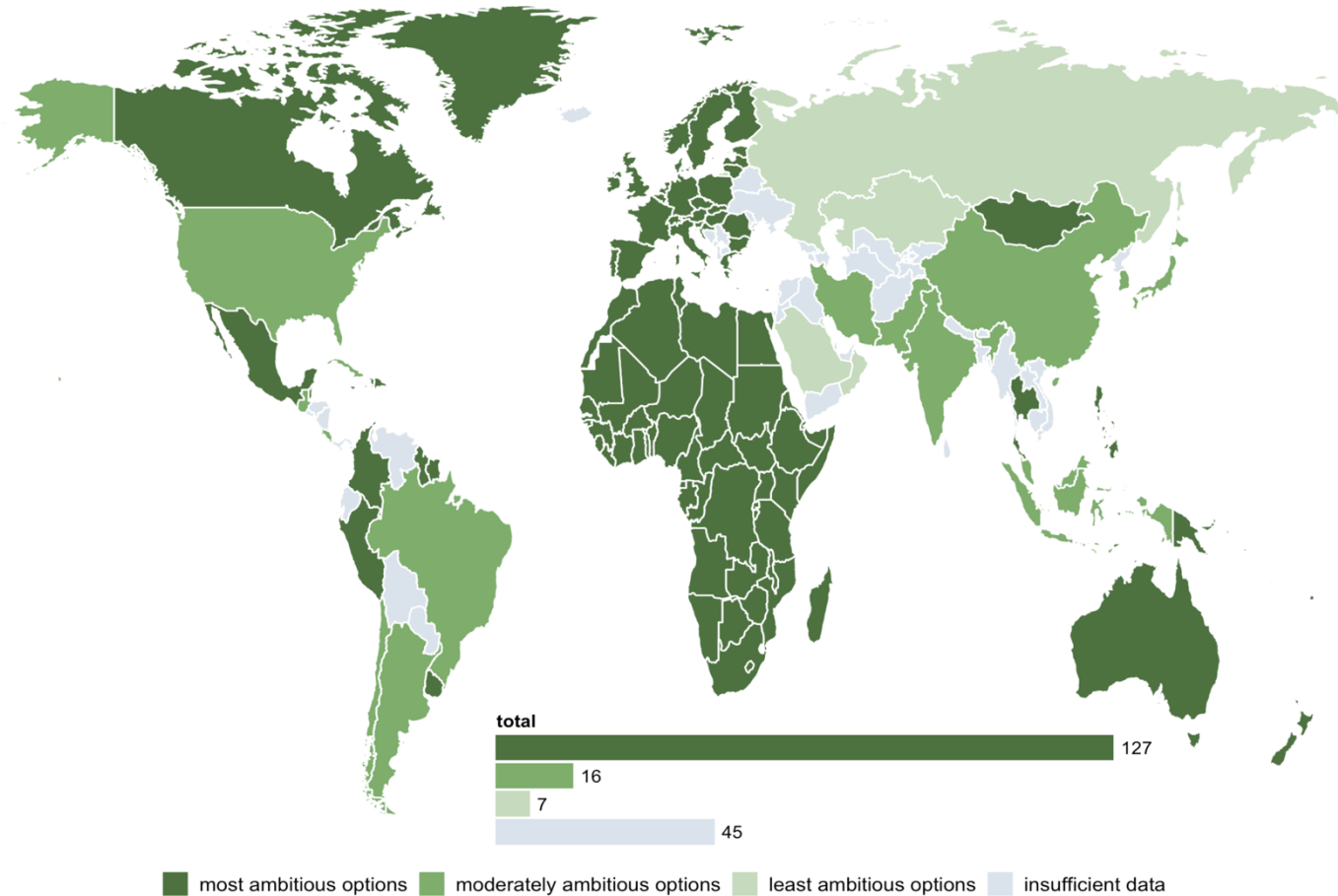


- Most ambitious option**
- Newly established dedicated fund(s)
- Least ambitious option**
- Dedicated fund within an existing financial arrangement

Figure 13 Overview on all positions by country and core obligation

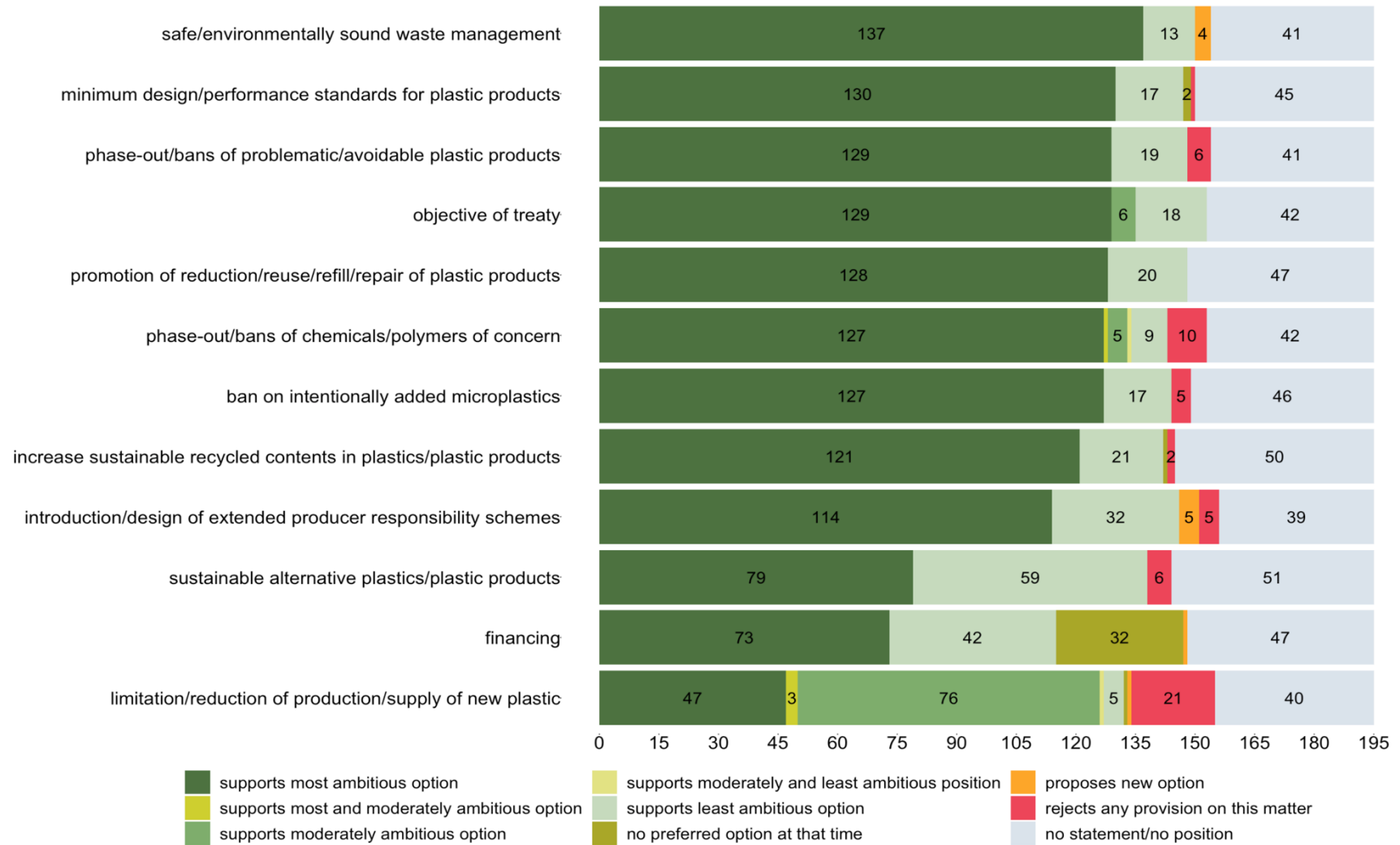


**Figure 14** Tendency of countries to support most, moderately or least ambitious options\*



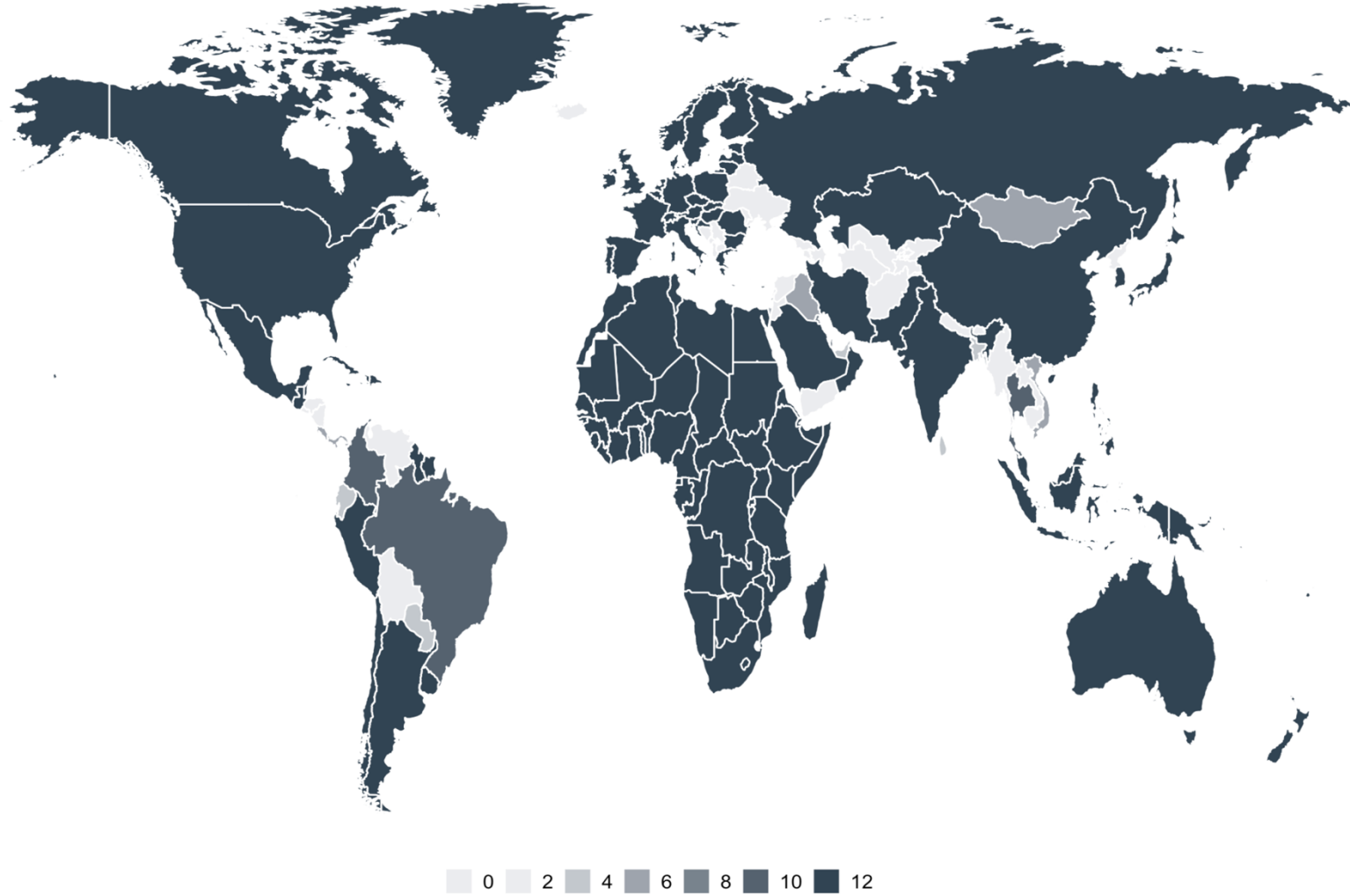
\* The analysis included only those countries that expressed their views on more than half of the 12 selected obligations. Countries were categorized based on their support for different levels of ambition in the treaty options, using a scoring system from 0 to 1. Scores below 0.34 indicated a preference for the least ambitious options, scores between 0.34 and 0.67 showed support for moderately ambitious options, and scores above 0.67 up to 1 indicated a preference for the most ambitious options. Each country's score was calculated by summing up the values assigned to their individual positions and dividing by the maximum possible sum. Specifically, a value of 3 was assigned for supporting the most ambitious options, 2 for moderately ambitious options, 1 for the least ambitious options, and 0 for suggesting the removal of a provision.

**Figure 15 Overview on all positions by core obligation\***



\* Sorted in descending order by number of countries that support most ambitious position.

Figure 16 Overview on number of positions\*



\* Only on the 12 core obligations that are subject of this report.