

Call for written submissions – Proposed response template on the potential options for elements towards an international legally binding instrument

On 9 December 2022, the Executive Secretary of the INC Plastic Pollution Secretariat sent a notification inviting written submissions from members of the committee and from observers. The template below is intended to provide guidance to members of the committee and observers in structuring the written submissions.

As requested by INC-1, written submissions will inform the secretariat in the preparation of a document with potential options for elements towards an international legally binding instrument, for consideration at the second session of the INC, without in any way prejudging what the committee might decide regarding the structure and provisions of the instrument. The document is to be based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastics as called for by UNEA resolution 5/14, including identifying the objective, substantive provisions including core obligations, control measures, and voluntary approaches, implementation measures, and means of implementation.

The template below is meant to assist Members and Observers to prepare their written submission as a guide. A number of documents prepared for INC-1 are of relevance, notably UNEP/PP/INC.1/5 on 'Potential elements, based on provisions in paragraphs 3 and 4 of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/14, including key concepts, procedures and mechanisms of legally binding multilateral agreements that may be relevant to furthering implementation and compliance under the future international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment'.

The template is divided into three sections:

- I. Substantive elements
- II. Implementation elements
- III. Additional input

All written submissions must be sent to unep-incplastic.secretariat@un.org. The statements received will be compiled and made available the INC webpage.

Please note that it is not required for all fields to be answered in the template for submission.

Deadline for submissions:

- 6 January 2023 for written submissions from observers.
- 13 February 2023 for written submissions from Members of the Committee.

Name of country (for Members of the committee)	Morocco
Name of organization (for observers to the committee)	N/A
Contact person and contact information for the submission	<u>Focal Point:</u> Mr. Rachid FIRADI, Director of Partnership, Communication and Cooperation, r.firadi21@gmail.com <u>Contact person:</u> Ms. Khaoula LAGRINI, Head of Unit in charge of Multilateral Cooperation, lagrini.env@gmail.com
Date	13th February 2023

As a member of the African Group of Negotiators, Morocco supports the African Group submission and would like to add some additional inputs.

I. Substantive elements

1. Objective(s)

a) What objective(s) could be set out in the instrument?

Proposed Objective:

General objective: Eliminate plastic pollution by 2040

Specific objectives:

- Protect human health and the environment including the marine environment from the impacts associated with plastics;
- Restrain plastic consumption and production to sustainable levels;
- Help ecosystems to recover from the impacts of legacy plastics;
- Ensure assistance and support to the potentially affected parties during this transition including the informal sector;
- Promoting research and development to improve recycling of used plastics and waste reduction as well as alternative products to plastics;
- Providing financial and technical assistance to developing countries to help them implement the instrument's measures and obligations.

The treaty should also define priority types of plastics to be addressed, for example: plastic packaging, bags, single used plastics, etc.

Explanatory Text:

Morocco thinks that the objective of the treaty should be short, clear and realistic by setting a target for the elimination of plastic pollution. Specific objectives will provide more clarity about the focus of the treaty which shall include the protection of human health and the environment from the impacts

of plastic pollution, sound management and recovery from legacy plastics, promotion of R&D and provision of means of implementation

2. Core obligations, control measures and voluntary approaches

- a) *What core obligations, control measures and voluntary approaches would provide a comprehensive approach to addressing plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, throughout the full life cycle in line with the future objective(s) of the instrument?*

Focusing on addressing the plastic pollution from a life cycle approach, the following core obligations and control measures need to be included in the future objective of the instrument.

Core obligations

Upstream

- Integration of the polluter pays principle;
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) measures;
- Control of the use of harmful chemicals or additives in the manufacturing or production of plastic raw materials and products, where banning is not possible;
- Control of the use of microplastics in the composition of products, especially those that can affect human health;
- Encouraging research and development of new technologies and materials to reduce the environmental impact of plastics and to develop alternative products;

Midstream

- Promotion of sustainable production and consumption of Plastics;
- Setting Policy and Regulatory Tools for Plastic Waste Reduction;
- Develop incentives to recycled plastics and alternative products to plastics.

Downstream

- Establishing regulations and standards for the management of plastic waste, including sorting, collection, transport, treatment, recycling;
- Measures to prevent illegal trafficking and dumping of plastic waste.

Crosscutting

- Development of global sustainability criteria and standards covering the entire life cycle of plastics;
- Strengthening the field of data and information including the development of tracking and transparency on types and volumes of plastics.
- Encourage R&D on plastic production, consumption and waste.

Control measures:

- Implementing measures to prevent and control marine plastic waste and microplastics with the support of extended producer responsibility schemes;
- Developing and implementing regulations for the packaging and labeling of plastic products to raise awareness among consumers and to promote recycling;
- Establishing control measures to identify sources of plastic pollution in the oceans;
- Establishing monitoring and reporting systems to track progress in reducing plastic pollution.

Voluntary approaches

- Behavioral interventions: Adoption of pro-environment behavior in societies through non price and non-regulatory means (e.g., Education, communication and public awareness campaigns, Voluntary certification schemes);
- Establishing Public Private Partnerships to promote circular economy for plastics and address plastic waste management;
- Setting up low carbon alternative production systems ;
- Introduction of a selective waste collection system and the promotion of recycling.

II. Implementation elements

1. Implementation measures

- a) How to ensure implementation of the instrument at the national level (eg. role national action plans contribute to meeting the objectives and obligations of the instrument?)*
- b) How to ensure effectiveness of the instrument and have efficient national reporting?*
- c) Please provide any other relevant proposals or priorities here on implementation measures (for example for scientific and technical cooperation and coordination as well as compliance).*

The main implementation measures that the treaty should adopt in order to ensure effectiveness of the instrument:

National Action Plans

- Include a review and update mechanism;
- Development of national action plans must involve all stakeholders at national level ;
- There should be guidelines approved by Conference of Parties for developing national inventories and national action plans.

National Reporting

- The treaty must adopt definitions, formats and methodologies for reporting to ensure comparable statistical data and enable assessment of the progress of implementation of the instrument and the effectiveness of the instrument in achieving its objectives. Such reporting should cover each phase of the life cycle: upstream, midstream and downstream;
- Consider the principle of common but differentiated responsibility (CBDR), as part of the negotiation models.

Capacity building and awareness raising:

- The treaty should ensure adequate capacity building to Countries in order to implement the instrument's provisions by putting in place all necessary success criteria;
- Countries would need to launch awareness-raising campaigns and allow citizens to participate in decision-making processes in order to insure the engagement and appropriation by all stakeholders;

Technical and scientific assistance:

- Invest in research and innovation for eco-design production, Reducing, Reuse and Recycling of plastics.

- Provide technical assistance to developing countries when and where needed for example through bilateral or multilateral programs

International cooperation and coordination:

- Promote and enhance cooperation and coordination between countries (neighboring ones or those with trade partnerships), as well as with international NGOs, to effectively implement the instrument's measures.

2. Means of Implementation

With respect to means of implementation, document UNEP/PP/INC.1/5 covers the following elements: capacity-building, technical assistance, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and financial assistance.

a) What measures will be required to support the implementation of the instrument?

Financial mechanism

- Establish an additional financial mechanism that provides for predictable, adequate and timely financial resources, including technology transfer, to developing countries and countries with economies in transition on a grant basis, with identified sources and access modalities, providing a full package that allows for delivering the global and national goals;
- Promote international investment in supporting the creation of viable waste management systems, including the significant investments needed for new infrastructure;
- Integrate an auto financing system through EPR.

Technical assistance and technology transfer

- Technical assistance in terms of providing guidance on best practices that can provide support for the implementation of policies and programs to reduce plastic pollution and can help to build the capacity of local organizations;
- Technical assistance should also include regulations, governance, national standards, and monitoring and reporting;
- Technology transfer: Make recycling technologies and sorting / collection affordable and accessible for all countries

On Subsidiary bodies

- The treaty should establish key subsidiary bodies to support implementation, including dedicated scientific, technical and financial assessment bodies, operating under the authority of the Parties, such as the scientific panel on chemicals and waste to be established as per UNEA Resolution 5/8.

III. Additional input

Please provide any other relevant proposals or priorities here (for example introductory elements; awareness-raising, education and exchange of information; research; stakeholder engagement; institutional arrangements and final provisions).

- Extensive public education to raise awareness of the treaty and to encourage behavioral change;
- Establish a comprehensive monitoring and assessment system with equitable access to countries that produces reliable information allowing to make science-based decisions, including volumes, types of plastic, and health impacts.