

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.
- 10 February 2023 for written submissions from Members of the Committee.

TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSIONS

Name of country (for Members of the committee)	Singapore
Name of organization (for observers to the committee)	-
Contact person and contact information for the submission	Ms Angeline Chui Deputy Director International Policy Division Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment Angeline_CHUI@mse.gov.sg
Date	10 February 2023

I. Substantive elements

1. Objective(s)

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

Proposed Objective:

To protect human health and the environment from the impact of plastic pollution.

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?

The international legally binding instrument ("instrument") should be designed in a way that facilitates universal participation from all countries and allows countries to develop measures that deliver on plastic pollution outcomes against the contexts of our respective countries.

The instrument should have a core obligation for all countries to develop National Action Plans. This will ensure all countries take concrete action to contribute to the objective of the instrument.

The instrument should identify control measures and voluntary approaches that help countries address plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. These measures and approaches should be based on clear scientific knowledge. Measures should generate positive environmental outcomes and should not inadvertently create new or unintended environmental problems.

The instrument should include control measures that protect human health and the environment from the impact of plastic pollution, such as obligations to:

- Put in place comprehensive waste management, to prevent leakage of plastic pollution to the environment, particularly the marine environment
- Develop initiatives to increase collection of plastic waste
- Develop strategies to increase recycling rates
- Phase down or phase out harmful chemicals and/or additives

The instrument should identify a range of voluntary measures that can help address plastic pollution that countries can consider, such as:

- Market-based incentives that promote recycling and circularity, e.g., Extended Producer Responsibility, labelling to enhance recyclability and safety
- Sustainable design standards that enable reuse and economically feasible recycling
- Promote innovation and development of sustainable alternatives and technologies
- Promote reduced consumption of single-use products including single-use plastics

The instrument should be focused on delivering action. It should also promote partnership and collaboration between the public sector, private sector, and other relevant actors and stakeholders, to identify concrete innovative solutions that can help tackle the plastic pollution issue.

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).*

Our view is that discussions on implementation elements should come only after there is clarity on obligations under the instrument.

To ensure implementation, the instrument should have a core obligation for all countries to develop National Action Plans (NAPs). This baseline requirement ensures that all countries have an obligation to take concrete actions to deliver on the objectives of the instrument. The NAP approach can also help to ensure the effectiveness of the instrument, as countries can update their NAPs to keep up with the latest scientific advancements and findings.

To support implementation, the instrument should also facilitate capacity building, exchange of expertise, and sharing of best practices/experience between countries, private sector, and other relevant actors and stakeholders.

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?

The instrument should include means of implementation such as facilitated capacity-building, exchange of technical expertise, and sharing of best practices/experience.

The instrument should also leverage the expertise of existing multilateral environmental agreements, especially where there is synergy and technical expertise.

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).

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