

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 stakeholders. The template below is intended to provide guidance to members of the committee and stakeholders 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 stakeholders 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 stakeholders.
- 10 February 2023 for written submissions from Members of the Committee.

TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSIONS

Name of country (for Members of the committee)	Sultanate of Oman
Name of organization (for stakeholders to the committee)	Environment Authority
Contact person and contact information for the submission	Dr. Mohammed Majid Al-Kasbi Director of Chemicals and Waste Management Department
Date	Feb. 2023

I. Substantive elements

1. Objective(s)

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

Proposed Objective:

- global prevention and elimination of plastic pollution
- environmentally sound management and recycling of plastic waste
- to have an instrument that addresses the full life cycle of plastics, protecting human health and the environment with special attention paid to the unique circumstances of those countries most in need.
- Identification and Environmentally Sound Management of Plastic Wastes
- developing efficient strategies for achieving recycling and recovery of plastic waste, and sustain the current plastic producers to produce environmentally friendly plastic products which can be reused many times
- Control of Transboundary Movement of plastic waste and Their Disposal
- policies to increase the recycling rates of plastic materials or stimulate sustainable use of plastic products
- harmonizing and developing policy frameworks related to plastics wastes. Such an approach may address the root causes of the problem and can take a long-term perspective that considers the long-lasting consequences of plastic in the environment, including the marine environment.
- Developing guidance addressing worker safety in the recycling and waste management sectors
- Developing guidance addressing sampling, analysis and monitoring of plastic waste in the environment, including the marine environment.
- Developing guidance addressing specifications for containers, equipment, bulk containers and storage sites containing plastic wastes
- Developing guidance addressing handling, separation, collection, packaging, compaction, transportation and storage

Explanatory Text:

The prevention and minimization of plastic wastes are the first and second most important steps in the waste management hierarchy. The new instrument should also include the necessary obligations to prevent plastics from entering into the environment, to address all plastic materials and products put on the market. In this regard we consider that the full life cycle of plastic from the stage of production and processing to end of life or waste management operations, including all types of plastics such as micro plastics, Nano plastics, plastic pellets used as raw material in plastic production shall be covered by this instrument. The instrument should enable countries to reduce, to reuse, to recycle and to replace plastics with cleaner alternatives or substitutes. Unnecessary, avoidable, and problematic plastics, substances and additives should be reduced, eliminated, substituted or banned.

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 core obligation to address the plastic pollution are following:

- Develop common international and binding obligations and control measures, across the full lifecycle of plastics based on the precautionary approach, waste hierarchy and the polluter pays and extended producer responsibility principles.
- enable a circular economy for plastics that protects the environment and human health while achieving environmentally sound management and recycling of plastic waste.
- Develop global sustainability criteria and standards for plastics across the full lifecycle.
- Set global baselines and targets for sustainability throughout the life-cycle of plastics, as well monitoring and reporting obligations.
- Ensure transparency in the value chain of plastics, including for material and chemical composition throughout the life-cycle of plastics;
- Establish mechanisms for strengthening commitments, targets and controls over time and facilitate effective technical and financial assistance as well as scientific and socioeconomic assessments.
- Implementation of national strategies for environmentally sound management of plastic waste, policies and programs which are effective tools to complement the implementation of legislation and regulations; monitoring and enforcement; incentives and penalties and technologies.

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).*

- Clear national action plans have to be developed
- national and subnational strategies and policies, legislation and implementation tools and instruments have to be examined to ensure that they are in compliance with the obligations
- enabling legislation to enact and enforce specific rules and regulations on the ESM of plastic wastes, including provisions for inspections and for establishing penalties for violations (e.g. on illegal traffic).
- enabling legislation competent authorities to monitor whether the waste management facilities that are handling plastic waste have obtained all the necessary approvals and can demonstrate due diligence in compliance, for example in plastic recycling facilities, to avoid plastic leakages, and whether actors involved in plastic waste management (e.g. collectors, transporters and recyclers) ensure that the collection, transportation, storage and disposal of wastes are environmentally sound.
- developing plastic product policies to increase the recycling rates of plastic materials or stimulate sustainable use of plastic products
- developing systemic approach may address the root causes of the problem and can take a long-term perspective that considers the long-lasting consequences of plastic in the environment, including the marine environment.
- Introducing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) systems as an approach that promotes reduction in the environmental impact of products, throughout their lifespan, from production through end-of-life. This assigns the responsibility of the whole lifecycle of a product to the producer of the goods, including environmentally sound waste disposal
- Any transboundary movements of plastic wastes considered under the Basel Convention are subject to prior written notification from the exporting country and prior written consent from the importing and, if appropriate, transit countries
- enact specific legislation that describes specifications for containers, equipment, bulk containers and storage sites containing plastic wastes
- developing of legislative approach to secure protection of workers
- developing of legislative approach for permitting or approval process, how to operate facilities, emission levels, monitoring and inspection.
- Public participation is a core principle of Environmentally Sound Management
- Implementation of best available techniques (BAT) and best environmental practices (BEP) when undertaking activities that generate wastes.
- Identifying the sources of plastic waste generation and quantify the amount of plastic wastes generated in order to establish a baseline quantity of plastic products, articles and plastic wastes and products with a relevant content of plastic and related wastes. And therefore establishing a registry system.

- ensure to has laboratory for sampling, analysis and monitoring of plastic waste that should be conducted by trained professionals and equipment capacity that should meet the required operating standards. Training and protocols should be in place to ensure that standards can be met, and that quality data and meaningful results can be obtained
- establishing and operating collection programs for plastic wastes in order to increase the efficiency of the waste collection systems. effort should be made to separate and extract plastic waste from other waste streams such as waste electrical and electronic equipment, vehicles, construction and demolition waste, cables, waste textiles etc.

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?

Awareness raising and Education are important elements in sustaining plastic pollution reduction success. Targeted initiatives at Educational institutions will inspire both collective and individual involvement in this global environmental challenge.

The public must be aware of plastic pollution's impact on human health and the environment and adapt to its consequences. Higher education students pursuing science and engineering degrees need to be taught about new technologies and practices in dedicated fields.

In this regard, the establishment of a flexible mechanism of financial and technical assistance in the frame of this instrument is very important. The toolbar should contain Capacity building component. Training, information, and support services which will help countries build the national capacity of strategic stakeholders to create the necessary enabling environment for the effective implementation of National Action plans.

Establishment of information, communication, and education services that will provide the stakeholders with publications, e-services, and other tools that can be used for a national information and awareness campaigns in support of plastic reduction objectives.

the limited capabilities of the developing countries to manage hazardous wastes and other wastes,
To provide Parties, upon request, with information on consultants or consulting firms
developing the technical capacity
training and technology transfers regarding the management of plastic waste
provide funding procedure to assist plastic waste management

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).

Scientific & technical cooperation component among others should serve for identification of reliable alternatives for plastic products and materials. The component related to awareness raising, education & exchange of information should be very strong and contain big spectrum of toolbars.
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