Iran Inputs on Preamble, Objectives, Principles and Scope

Part I

1. Preamble

Iran: The preamble should be concise and very broad. The agreed language of the UNEA 5/14 could be used for this section. Issues such as references to human rights, informal workers and the rights of women could be placed just under preamble. For this purpose the language used in Paris Agreement could be replicated and inserted here.

[The Parties to this instrument*,
Noting with concern that the high and rapidly increasing levels of plastic pollution represent a serious environmental problem at a global scale, negatively impacting the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development,
Recognizing that plastic pollution includes microplastics,
Noting with concern the specific impact of plastic pollution on the marine environment,
Noting that plastic pollution, in marine and other environments, can be of a transboundary nature and needs to be tackled, together with its impacts, through a full-life-cycle approach, taking into account national circumstances and capabilities,
Recognizing the special circumstances of Small Island Developing States,
Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, by which the General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,
Reaffirming also the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, adopted in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992,
Recalling General Assembly resolution 76/300 of 28 July 2022 which recognized the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right,
Recalling the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,
Recalling the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for development,
Stressing the urgent need to strengthen the science-policy interface at all levels, improve understanding of the global impact of plastic pollution on the environment, and promote effective and progressive action at the local, regional and global levels, recognizing the important role played by plastics in society,
Recalling United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions 1/6, 2/11, 3/7, 4/6, 4/7 and 4/91 and affirming the urgent need to strengthen global coordination, cooperation and governance to take immediate action towards the long-term elimination of plastic pollution in marine and other environments, and to avoid detriment from plastic pollution to ecosystems and the human activities dependent on them.]

1 The elements described in this provision are a non-exhaustive compilation of elements from the synthesis report and submissions and statements by members of the committee and are subject to further negotiation. The text is based on the preambular text of UNEA resolution 5/14. It is proposed as a starting point with a view to its further development taking into account the inputs from Members during INC-3. See the compilation of written submissions by members during the third session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee, available at https://www.unep.org/inc-plastic-pollution/session-3/documents/in-session#ContactGroups. See also contact group 3 outcome document, p. 1.
Recognizing the wide range of approaches, sustainable alternatives and technologies available to address the full life cycle of plastics, further highlighting the need for enhanced international collaboration to facilitate access to technology, capacity-building, and scientific and technical cooperation, and stressing that there is no single approach.

Underlining the importance of promoting sustainable design of products and materials so that they can be reused, remanufactured or recycled and therefore retained in the economy for as long as possible, along with the resources they are made of; and of minimizing the generation of waste, which can significantly contribute to sustainable production and consumption of plastics,

Welcoming efforts made by Governments and international organizations, in particular through national, regional and international action plans, initiatives and instruments, including relevant multilateral agreements, and recognizing the need for complementary actions and a coherent and coordinated long-term vision,

Reaffirming the importance of cooperation, coordination and complementarity among relevant regional and international conventions and instruments, with due respect for their respective mandates, to prevent plastic pollution and its related risks to human health and adverse effects on human well-being and the environment, including the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships of 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto and as further amended by the Protocol of 1997; the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal; the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade; the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants; the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea; the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter of 1972 and the Protocol thereto; the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management; the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; the Convention on Biological Diversity; and other international organizations, regional instruments and programmes, and recognizing efforts led by non-governmental organizations and the private sector,

Recognizing that each country is best positioned to understand its own national circumstances, including its stakeholder activities, related to addressing plastic pollution, including in the marine environment,

Recognizing the importance of best available science, traditional knowledge, knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local knowledge systems,

Taking into account the imperatives of a just transition of the workforce,

Recognizing also the significant contribution made by waste-pickers and other workers in informal and cooperative settings to the collecting, sorting and recycling of plastics in many countries,

Considering the need to mobilize new and additional means of implementation, in particular for developing countries, to combat plastic pollution,

Recalling United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/14 of 2 March 2022 which requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastic,

Have agreed as follows:

2. **Objective**

Option 1

1. The objective of this instrument* is to end plastic pollution, including in the marine environment [and other aquatic as well as terrestrial ecosystems], [based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastic] [through the prevention, progressive reduction and elimination of [additional]**2 plastic

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2 Note: The sign ** throughout this document indicates text or bracketing added to reflect member input that had been omitted from the final merger compilation issued on 19 November 2023 at the third session.
pollution] [by 2040] [and enhanced efforts thereafter], [in order] to protect human health and the environment [from its adverse effects] [and to achieve sustainable development].

**Option 2**

2. The objective of this instrument* is to protect human health and the environment from [the adverse effects of] plastic pollution, including in the marine environment [and other aquatic as well as terrestrial ecosystems], [by ending plastic pollution based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastic] [through the prevention, progressive reduction and remediation of [additional]** plastic pollution] [management] [and utilization of plastic and plastic waste] [according to national priorities] [by 2040] [and enhanced efforts thereafter], [and to achieve sustainable development][, poverty eradication and just transition,] [considering the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities] [as well as financial and technical support].

3. **Definitions**

**Option 0**

*No standalone provision.*

**Option 1**

1. For the purposes of this instrument:
   a. [“term”] means []
   b. [“term”] means []
   c. [“term”] means []

**Option 4**

*No standalone provision.*

**Option 1**

1. In their actions to achieve the objective of the instrument* and to implement its provisions, the Parties shall be guided, inter alia, by:

   a. [the principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (Rio Principles), as referred to in resolution UNEA 5/14, in general or with reference to specific principles]
   b. [common but differentiated responsibilities]
   c. [the polluter pays principle]
   d. [the precautionary approach]
   e. [the prevention principle]

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3 The placement of definitions could be in a standalone article (option 1) or integrated into the substantive provisions of the instrument, or a combination of the two. See contact group 3 outcome document, p. 3. See also the compilation of written submissions by members during the third session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee (available at https://www.unep.org/inc-plastic-pollution/session-3/documents/in-session#ContactGroups).

4 The options identified for the consideration of the committee are intended to reflect the three possible approaches identified on the basis of members’ inputs which could be used, in isolation or in combination, to reflect principles relevant to the instrument, i.e., references to the relevant principles in preambular language, a dedicated provision identifying principles to guide the instrument, and/or incorporation of the relevant principles in relevant substantive provisions. The options are presented with a view to their further elaboration through draft text as appropriate. The elements described in this provision (option 1) are a non-exhaustive compilation of elements from the synthesis report and submissions and statements by members and are subject to further negotiation. Specific principles could be identified in subparagraphs. This could include, for example, one or more of the principles identified in part I, section 3(a) of the synthesis report, also taking into consideration the inputs of members made in the preparatory meeting and as identified in the compilation of written submissions by members at the third session of the committee (available at https://www.unep.org/inc-plastic-pollution/session-3/documents/in-session#ContactGroups). See contact group 3 outcome document, p. 4.
5. **Scope**

On the issue of Scope we could not accept any reference to the primary and virgin polymers as well as the areas which are beyond the mandate of UNEA resolution 5/14. Therefore, The priority of Iran in this section is option 13 which is very concise and brief but options 7 and 10 also includes some elements which with some modifications (red lines 5 and 6 under 10) could be taken into account.

**Option 7**

The scope of the instrument is to end plastic pollution through a full life-cycle approach, taking into account national circumstances and capabilities through nationally determined action plans reflecting country-driven approaches, while ensuring sufficient flexibility to accommodate the different capacities and circumstances of developing countries especially least developed countries, while still being effective in addressing plastic pollution.

**Option 10**

The scope of the future instrument shall strictly be in line with the mandate as defined in article 3 of the UNEA Resolution No. 5/14 paragraphs 3(b) and 3 (c) indicating that the instrument shall include the following:

- To promote sustainable development production and consumption of plastics, with the use of the best available technologies, product design and environmentally sound waste management, including through resource efficiency and circular economy approaches;

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The options reproduce text from the compilation of written inputs received from members at the third session of the committee concerning the possible scope of the instrument (available at https://www.unep.org/ine-plastic-pollution/session-3/documents/in-session#ContactGroups). See contact group 3 outcome document, p. 5.
- To promote national and international cooperative measures to reduce plastic pollution in the marine environment, including existing plastic pollution (and legacy plastic pollution). Implementing efficient recycling systems and promoting economy, where plastic waste is reduced, reused and repurposed, can significantly decrease the environmental impact of plastics; 

--- The core of the plastic pollution crisis is "the resource inefficient, linear, take-make-waste plastic economy," which should be replaced by a rational and environment-friendly economy; 

--- Further, the scope of the future instrument should focus on development and promotion of sustainable alternatives to replace hazardous additives; 

- The scope of the instrument should exclude the stages of extraction and processing of primary raw materials as well as the stages related to primary and virgin polymer production, since no plastic pollution is generated at these stages of production and raw materials can be used for production of other non-plastic products; 

- Limitations should be put on unnecessary and problematic plastic applications, to make recycling techniques more efficient and environmentally sound, and biodegradable plastics to become a suitable alternative for single-use applications of ordinary plastics.

Option 13

The future instrument shall apply to plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, throughout the full life cycle from the design of plastic products to the environmentally sound management of plastic waste. The future instrument shall not apply to the following substances:

- Raw materials, such as hydrocarbons and their derivatives; 
- Intermediate products, such as virgin polymers, which have to be further processed for serving end uses, any dual-use items.

1. Parties shall ensure that non-plastic substitutes are safe, environmentally sound and sustainable, taking into account their potential for environmental, economic, social and human health impacts, including food and water security, and land loss. Based on full life cycle analysis.