

WRITTEN VIEWS

on the Guiding Questions

for the Second Informal In-Person Meeting of Heads of Delegation to the
Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution

27–30 September 2026
Bangkok, Thailand

Submitted by:

Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO
Dhaka, Bangladesh



WRITTEN VIEWS

on the Guiding Questions for the Second Informal In-Person Meeting of Heads of Delegation
to the
Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution

27–30 September 2026 | Bangkok, Thailand

Submitted by:
Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Accredited observer organization to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution

Executive Summary

ESDO welcomes the opportunity to provide consolidated written views on the Chair's Guiding Questions for the second informal in-person Heads of Delegation meeting in Bangkok. The future international legally binding instrument should deliver a genuine and measurable reduction in plastic pollution across its full life cycle.

ESDO considers the four clusters to be interconnected. National Plans should translate treaty obligations into national action; reporting and information exchange should provide transparency; implementation and compliance should support delivery; effectiveness evaluation should measure environmental outcomes; and finance, capacity-building and technology transfer should enable developing countries to implement the instrument.

The instrument should address plastic pollution at source and throughout the life cycle, including problematic and avoidable products, chemicals and polymers of concern, releases and leakages, microplastics, plastic waste and existing and legacy pollution. Human health, environmental protection, environmental justice and a just transition should remain central to implementation.

ESDO supports a prevention-oriented approach in which waste management is necessary but does not substitute for upstream measures. Ambitious obligations must be matched by adequate, predictable and accessible financial resources, technical assistance, capacity-building and technology transfer.

Key message: The objective should not simply be to manage ever-increasing quantities of plastic waste. The objective should be to prevent and progressively eliminate plastic pollution while enabling a just, safe and sustainable transition away from pollution-intensive systems.

CLUSTER A

National Plans • Reporting • Implementation and Compliance • Information Exchange • Effectiveness Evaluation

1. What purposes are National Plans expected to serve as a contribution to the achievement of the objectives of the instrument?

ESDO considers National Plans to be a central mechanism for translating the obligations and objectives of the future instrument into concrete national action.

- Translate international obligations into national policies, legislation, programs and measurable actions.
- Identify priority sources of plastic pollution, including problematic and avoidable products, releases and leakages, microplastics, plastic waste and existing and legacy pollution.
- Establish measurable national targets, indicators, timelines and institutional responsibilities.
- Identify financial, technical, technological and capacity-building requirements.
- Promote coordination among environment, health, industry, trade, agriculture, fisheries, waste management, finance and local government authorities.
- Facilitate stakeholder participation, including civil society, scientific institutions, affected communities, workers and relevant economic actors.
- Provide the foundation for national reporting and effectiveness evaluation.
- Be periodically reviewed and strengthened in light of new scientific knowledge, technological developments and effectiveness evaluation.

2. How could provisions on reporting, implementation and compliance, information exchange and effectiveness evaluation support the overall implementation of the instrument, and what is the relationship between these articles?

These elements should operate as one integrated implementation cycle:

National Plans → Implementation → Reporting → Information Exchange → Implementation Support and Compliance → Effectiveness Evaluation → Strengthened National Plans.

- Establish common core reporting requirements without creating unnecessary administrative burdens.
- Include information on national measures, progress against targets, releases and leakages, plastic waste, microplastics where relevant, legacy pollution, financial resources, capacity-building, technology needs and implementation challenges.
- Make implementation and compliance facilitative, transparent, supportive and non-punitive, especially where difficulties arise from inadequate means of implementation.

- Ensure effectiveness evaluation measures actual reductions in plastic pollution and associated risks to human health and the environment, rather than only administrative activity.

3. What will be the role of information exchange in the overall implementation of the instrument and how can it contribute to its effectiveness?

Information exchange should be an essential implementation pillar.

- Facilitate scientific and technical information, chemicals and polymers of concern, problematic products, releases and leakages, microplastics, environmentally sound technologies, alternatives, product design, reuse systems and waste-management practices.
- Share monitoring methods, national legislation, financial and technical assistance opportunities and lessons learned.
- Prioritize access for developing countries that may lack specialized scientific information, analytical capacity and appropriate technologies.
- Ensure information is transparent, accessible and capable of supporting national planning, reporting and effectiveness evaluation.

CLUSTER B

Releases and Leakages • Existing and Legacy Plastic Pollution • Plastic Waste Management • Plastic Product Design • Plastic Products

1. What considerations should guide decisions on determining which plastic products will require possible global measures, actions or cooperation?

Decisions should be based on transparent, science-based and internationally agreed criteria.

- Contribution to plastic pollution throughout the life cycle and potential for environmental releases and leakages.
- Persistence and accumulation; generation of microplastics; and presence of hazardous chemicals, polymers or additives of concern.
- Risks to human health, biodiversity and ecosystems.
- Whether a product is problematic or avoidable; short functional lifetime relative to environmental persistence; and inability to be safely reused, recycled or otherwise managed.
- Availability of safer and more sustainable alternatives, impacts on vulnerable communities and transboundary impacts.
- Possible global measures include elimination or phase-out, reduction, restrictions, redesign, reuse and refill requirements, improved material safety, extended producer responsibility, labelling and international cooperation.
- Product design should address chemical safety, durability, reuse, resource efficiency and pollution prevention, not recyclability alone.

2. What type of enabling factors should be considered to address existing and legacy plastic pollution, including the process to identify and evaluate locations or accumulation zones and subsequent remediation efforts?

- Existing and legacy pollution requires dedicated international cooperation and a systematic approach.
- Identify and map terrestrial accumulation zones, rivers and waterways, coastal and marine hotspots, abandoned/lost fishing gear, unmanaged dumpsites, contaminated land and sensitive ecosystems.
- Use the sequence: Identification → Mapping → Risk Assessment → Prioritization → Prevention of Further Releases → Remediation → Monitoring.
- Prioritize according to human-health and ecosystem risks, population vulnerability, continuing leakage, transboundary significance and environmental sensitivity.
- Provide developing countries with dedicated financial and technical support.
- Ensure remediation does not simply transfer plastic pollution between environmental compartments.
- Apply appropriate producer responsibility and polluter-pays approaches where responsible actors can be identified, while recognizing historical, diffuse and transboundary pollution.
- Conduct long-term post-remediation monitoring.

3. How can Parties cooperate in the implementation of effective waste-management policies, taking into account different national circumstances and needs?

Waste management is essential but cannot substitute for prevention and upstream action.

- Support the hierarchy: Prevention → Reduction → Reuse → Safe Collection → Segregation → Recycling where environmentally appropriate → Safe Treatment and Disposal.
- Support universal and environmentally sound collection, source segregation, prevention of open dumping and open burning, and reduction of leakage.
- Strengthen municipal capacity and integrate informal waste workers with appropriate social and occupational safeguards.
- Support extended producer responsibility, reuse and refill systems, appropriate recycling and monitoring/data systems.
- Establish common environmental objectives and minimum safeguards while allowing implementation to reflect national circumstances and capacities.
- Ensure developing countries have access to finance, technology and technical assistance for environmentally sound waste-management systems.

- Promote zero-waste and pollution-prevention approaches rather than relying predominantly on downstream disposal and recycling.

CLUSTER C

Capacity-Building • Technical Assistance • Technology Transfer • International Cooperation • Financial Resources and Mechanism

1. What elements must be considered to ensure that all available financial sources, including public finance, are effectively mobilized for implementation of the instrument?

Adequate, predictable, accessible and sustainable finance is a fundamental condition for successful implementation.

- Mobilize and coordinate domestic public resources, international public finance, bilateral assistance, multilateral development finance, concessional finance, grants, private investment, philanthropic resources and innovative financing.
- Keep public finance as a core pillar; private finance should complement rather than replace public financial commitments.
- Support National Plans, legislation, institutions, monitoring, prevention, product/material transitions, reuse, waste management, legacy-pollution remediation, research, capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer.
- Provide simplified and equitable access for developing countries.
- Give particular consideration to countries facing high pollution levels, limited capacity, significant legacy pollution or substantial transboundary pollution.
- Prioritize measurable environmental outcomes and avoid creating additional debt burdens for countries already facing severe development and climate-related constraints.

2. What role should the private sector have in facilitating the mobilization of financial resources, capacity building and technical assistance, and what elements could be considered under the financial mechanism to promote such a role?

The private sector can contribute substantially because producers, brand owners, retailers, financial institutions and other economic actors influence the plastic life cycle.

- Invest in safer production, product redesign, reuse/refill, elimination of problematic products, environmentally sound technologies, waste prevention and management, research and innovation and producer responsibility.
- Require transparency, accountability, environmental safeguards, conflict-of-interest safeguards and disclosure of relevant financial contributions.

- Ensure that financial responsibility is not shifted disproportionately to governments, consumers, informal workers or vulnerable communities.
- Use private-sector participation to support, not weaken, strong public-interest regulatory frameworks.

3. What provisions related to technology transfer could foster international cooperation, considering the capacity differences between countries?

Technology transfer should include knowledge, training, technical expertise, institutional capacity, maintenance and research cooperation, not only equipment.

- Prioritize monitoring, release/leakage prevention, waste management, environmentally sound recycling, reuse/refill, safer alternatives, product redesign, microplastic monitoring, remediation and data systems.
- Support technology needs assessments, regional technology centers/networks, South-South and triangular cooperation, joint research and training.
- Enable developing countries to operate, maintain, adapt and improve technologies locally.
- Promote locally appropriate, affordable and environmentally sound solutions rather than technological dependency.

CLUSTER D

Preamble • Objective • Principles and Approaches • Definitions • Just Transition • Public Information, Awareness, Education and Research • Secretariat • Final Provisions

1. Which principles and approaches could be useful in guiding the effective implementation of the instrument, and how could these be best reflected in the instrument?

The principles and approaches should provide the interpretive and implementation framework for the entire instrument.

- Precautionary approach; prevention; polluter-pays; science-based decision-making; protection of human health; protection of biodiversity and ecosystems; environmental justice; intergenerational equity.
- Full life-cycle approach; sustainable consumption and production; equity; transparency; access to information; public participation; just transition.
- Common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light of different national circumstances.
- Reflect these principles, where appropriate, in National Plans, product measures, releases and leakages, waste management, finance, technology transfer, implementation/compliance and effectiveness evaluation.

- Do not leave principles merely as aspirational preambular language when operative provisions are required.

2. How can actions related to public information, awareness, education and research support implementation?

Public information, awareness, education and research should be recognized as implementation tools.

- Provide accessible information on plastic pollution, health and environmental impacts, chemicals and polymers of concern, problematic products, alternatives, reuse and waste management.
- Integrate education into schools, universities, technical/vocational institutions, professional training, communities and public institutions.
- Support research on sources and pathways, releases and leakages, microplastics, chemicals/polymers of concern, health and biodiversity impacts, alternatives, safe-by-design products, reuse, waste management and remediation.
- Provide dedicated support to developing-country research institutions.
- Link research to treaty implementation through: Research → Information Exchange → National Planning → Implementation → Reporting → Effectiveness Evaluation.
- Recognize the contribution of civil society, independent researchers and affected communities to knowledge generation and communication.

3. Considering the progress achieved so far in discussions related to issues such as the Secretariat and definitions, does the current formulation in the Aid to Negotiations reflect the level of detail required?

The treaty should provide sufficient detail for legal clarity, predictability and effective implementation while avoiding excessive operational detail that may become outdated.

- Clearly establish core Secretariat functions: servicing the COP, communication, support for National Plans/reporting, information exchange, technical assistance, financial arrangements, scientific cooperation, information systems and effectiveness evaluation.
- Allow detailed administrative procedures to be developed subsequently by the COP.
- Define terms that are essential to determining legal obligations with sufficient scientific precision.
- Keep technical terminology adaptable where science and technology are expected to evolve, without undermining legal certainty.

ESDO CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITIES

ESDO recommends that the following priorities remain visible across all clusters:

- Address plastic pollution across the full life cycle, from production and product design through use, releases, leakage and end-of-life.
- Address releases and leakages explicitly; plastic pollution is not defined only by waste generation.
- Address microplastics as an important source and pathway of plastic pollution, including relevant intentional and unintentional releases.
- Address chemicals and polymers of concern throughout the plastic life cycle.
- Prioritize prevention and reduction; waste management cannot substitute for upstream action.
- Place human health at the center of product measures, chemicals management, pollution prevention, monitoring and effectiveness evaluation.
- Recognize environmental justice and disproportionate burdens on vulnerable communities, workers and children.
- Match ambitious obligations with adequate finance, capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer.
- Ensure a just transition for workers, informal waste-sector workers, communities and small enterprises affected by the transition.
- Measure actual environmental progress, including reductions in plastic pollution, releases, leakages and associated risks.

CONCLUSION

ESDO believes the Bangkok discussions provide an important opportunity to move from identifying areas of disagreement toward practical bridging solutions while maintaining the environmental integrity of the future instrument.

Global obligations should establish ambition; National Plans should translate ambition into action; finance and technology should enable implementation; information and reporting should provide transparency; implementation and compliance should support delivery; science should inform decisions; and effectiveness evaluation should measure actual reductions in plastic pollution.

The future instrument should address plastic pollution at its sources and throughout its full life cycle, including problematic and avoidable products, chemicals and polymers of concern, releases and leakages, microplastics, waste management and existing and legacy pollution.

ESDO emphasizes that human health, environmental protection and equity should remain at the centre of implementation. The objective should be to prevent and progressively eliminate plastic pollution while enabling a just, safe and sustainable transition away from pollution-intensive systems.

Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO
Dhaka, Bangladesh
September 2026

Prepared as consolidated written views on the Chair's Guiding Questions for the second informal in-person HOD meeting, 27–30 September 2026, Bangkok.