

Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastics Pollution: Written Views from Accredited Observer Organizations

The Plant Based Products Council (PBPC) appreciates the opportunity to provide responses to the guiding questions issued by the Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) in advance of the second informal Heads of Delegation meeting in Bangkok. PBPC's comments focus on Clusters B and D, which address plastic releases and leakages, existing and legacy plastic pollution, plastic waste management, plastic product design, plastic products, and the principles and approaches that should guide effective implementation of the instrument.

PBPC represents businesses of all sizes committed to advancing the bioeconomy and promoting innovation in consumer products, chemicals, materials, and packaging made in whole or in part from renewable, plant-based feedstocks. The organization's membership spans the biobased products value chain and supports policies that encourage technological innovation and the development of a more circular economy. Biobased products are derived from renewable resources such as corn, soy, algae, hemp, bamboo, agricultural residues, and other plant-based materials. By utilizing renewable feedstocks, these products can support manufacturing, strengthen agricultural markets, diversify supply chains, and contribute to environmental and economic sustainability objectives.

PBPC supports efforts to create a more circular economy for plastics while recognizing the important role plastics play in modern society. As negotiations toward a global plastics reduction treaty continue, PBPC encourages science-based, practical, and innovation-focused approaches that improve environmental outcomes across the full life cycle of plastics. PBPC believes certified biobased and compostable plastics can contribute to reducing plastic pollution, advancing circularity, supporting organic waste diversion, and fostering continued innovation in sustainable materials and product design.

Cluster B:

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

Decisions regarding plastic products that may warrant global measures should be guided by science-based assessments that consider product function, environmental performance, compatibility with circular economy objectives, and the availability and performance capabilities of viable alternatives. Any approach should recognize the important role plastics play in modern economies while focusing on improving overall environmental outcomes throughout the full life cycle of plastics. Products that are difficult to recycle and compost may warrant additional consideration, while innovation in sustainable plastic product design should

be encouraged. PBPC supports an approach that recognizes the potential contributions of bioplastics as part of the solution set. Definitions and product criteria developed under the treaty should allow for continued innovation and market access for plant-based materials, products, and packaging.

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

Parties can cooperate by establishing common objectives, internationally compatible definitions, and interoperable standards while preserving flexibility in how countries achieve treaty objectives. Effective cooperation should recognize that waste management infrastructure, recycling and composting capacity, market conditions, geography, and financial resources vary significantly among jurisdictions. Cooperation should focus on building the infrastructure necessary to scale innovative materials from pilot production to market adoption, technology transfer, development of technical standards, and support for collection, sorting, recycling, and composting systems. PBPC supports aligned terminology and identification systems that help distinguish between recyclable, reusable, and compostable materials while reducing contamination. Policies should recognize that the characteristics of a material are distinct from the availability of infrastructure to recover it and should incentivize the development of systems needed to recover viable materials at scale. International collaboration on research, infrastructure development, public awareness, and investment can help improve waste management performance while supporting economic growth, innovation, and circular economy objectives.

Cluster D:

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?

PBPC believes key principles should include science-based decision-making, life cycle thinking, circularity, innovation, and recognition of the importance of plastics in modern society, as well as the role bio-based plastics can play in addressing plastic pollution.

The instrument should recognize that plastic products serve different functions, and that policies should consider product performance, environmental outcomes, and the availability of viable alternatives. Approaches that support recycling, composting, and the incorporation of renewable and recycled content can all contribute to reducing plastic pollution and advancing circular economy objectives. Innovation should be encouraged, including the development and deployment of biobased materials, certified compostable plastics, and other emerging solutions that can help reduce waste and improve resource efficiency. Life cycle assessments and carbon

accounting methods should be applied consistently across materials to ensure fair comparisons and accurate recognition of impacts.

These principles should be reflected throughout the provisions of the instrument, including those related to plastic products, product design, releases and leakages, waste management, remediation of existing and legacy plastic pollution, capacity building, technology transfer, and implementation support. Embedding these principles throughout the instrument will help ensure that future decisions promote circularity, encourage innovation, and achieve meaningful environmental outcomes while accommodating a range of national approaches.

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

Public information, education, and research can support implementation by helping consumers, governments, and businesses make informed decisions that advance circularity and improve environmental outcomes. Research should support science-based decision-making by evaluating the full life cycle impacts of materials and packaging, improving waste management technologies, and advancing innovative solutions, including certified biobased and compostable materials. Collaboration among governments, academia, industry, and other stakeholders can help ensure that research findings translate into practical solutions that support waste reduction, resource efficiency, and the transition to a more circular economy.