

United States of America – Text Submission

Article 18 – Awareness, Education and Research

1. Parties shall promote and facilitate public awareness-raising and education related to plastic pollution and its effects in support of the objective of this Convention and shall promote, as appropriate, such efforts at the national and international including regional, levels and cooperate, as appropriate, with relevant intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations.
2. Each Party shall promote and facilitate measures to raise awareness, improve understanding, and share information, such as:
 - a. Developing a communication and education strategy on the objective of the Convention, involving stakeholders, which may include educational and awareness-raising programmes, and public information campaigns
 - b. Promoting public participation and the availability of information;
 - c. Providing training relevant to plastic pollution, including exchange visits and specific dedicated training;
 - d. Promoting the inclusion of plastic pollution issues across curricula and practices in educational institutions.
3. Parties shall take measures to advance scientific and technological research, development and innovation, which may include:
 - a. Developing and implementing more environmentally sustainable and circular plastics approaches and systems-wide solutions;
 - b. Enhancing understanding of environmental, human health, and socio-economic impacts of plastic pollution, as well as alternative solutions across the full life cycle of plastic, including microplastics and nanoplastics;
 - c. Promoting and improving methods for the monitoring and modelling of plastic pollution including its distribution and abundance in the environment, and impacts on human health;
 - d. Promoting the collaborative development and use of standardized methods, terminology, and approaches for environmental data collection and analyses, to improve reliability and comparability; and
 - e. Incorporating traditional knowledge, knowledge of Indigenous peoples and local knowledge and cultural and socio-economic factors, as appropriate.
4. The Conference of the Parties, at its first meeting, shall establish a dedicated scientific subsidiary body comprised of scientific experts to provide scientific information and assessments with respect to global plastic pollution, including scientific information needed for the Parties in undertaking an effectiveness evaluation under Article xx.
5. The members of the scientific subsidiary body shall serve in their capacity as experts and accept no instruction from, nor function as, representatives of Governments, industries, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or other organizations.