



Responses to Guiding Questions.

Women's Working Group on Ending Plastic Pollution

The Women's Working Group on Ending Plastic Pollution is pleased to submit this contribution to the Chair and Members of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee as part of the preparatory process for the second informal in-person meeting of Heads of Delegation in Bangkok. Our submission reflects the perspectives of women's organizations, gender experts, community advocates, and scientific partners committed to ensuring that the future plastics instrument is grounded in human rights, gender equality, and the protection of human health across the full life cycle of plastics.

Throughout the INC process, we have consistently emphasized that plastic pollution and toxic chemical exposure are not gender-neutral, and that women, girls, waste pickers, and frontline communities face disproportionate harms. Recent scientific evidence, including findings of microplastics and nanoplastics in human placentas and newborns, underscores the urgency of adopting binding global measures that address upstream drivers of the plastics crisis. These realities demand an instrument that is ambitious, enforceable, and responsive to the lived experiences of affected communities.

We welcome the Chair's invitation to identify areas of convergence, explore bridging proposals, and contribute to the development of the next iteration of the Aid to Negotiations. We also reiterate the importance of meaningful participation, including structured opportunities for observers to contribute to text development, intersessional work, and informal consultations. Ensuring inclusive participation strengthens legitimacy, transparency, and effectiveness.

This document contains:

- An introductory letter outlining our core priorities and concerns;
- Our detailed responses to the guiding questions under Clusters A–D;
- Key elements we consider essential for an effective, gender-responsive, and human-rights-based treaty.

We submit these inputs with the intention of supporting constructive dialogue and advancing a treaty capable of protecting present and future generations from the escalating harms of plastics and their toxic additives. We remain committed to collaborating with all delegations

and stakeholders to achieve a strong, legally binding instrument that delivers real and lasting change.

Cluster A – National Plans, Reporting, 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?

National Plans must serve as binding national implementation roadmaps that translate global obligations into concrete domestic action. Their purpose should be:

- Operationalize global commitments through quantitative targets for production reduction, elimination of toxic additives, and prevention of waste generation.
- Integrate gender-responsive indicators, ensuring protection of women, girls, waste pickers, and frontline communities.
- Establish clear timelines, responsibilities, and monitoring systems to guarantee accountability.
- Ensure coherence with other national frameworks on health, chemicals, climate, and biodiversity.

National Plans must not replace global obligations; they must implement them, ensuring consistency and ambition across Parties.

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?

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 is essential for:

- Access to chemical hazard data, including endocrine-disrupting chemicals and polymers of concern.
- Sharing traceability and transparency systems across supply chains.
- Supporting developing countries through capacity building and technology access.
- Enabling gender-disaggregated data collection and community-level monitoring.
- Facilitating cooperation on best practices for safe alternatives, waste prevention, and remediation.

Cluster B – Releases, Legacy Pollution, Waste Management, Product Design, Plastic Products

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

Criteria should include:

- Toxicity of chemical additives, especially endocrine-disrupting chemicals.
- Likelihood of environmental leakage and persistence.
- Feasibility and availability of safe, non-toxic alternatives.
- Impacts on vulnerable groups, including women, children, and informal workers.
- Contribution to unnecessary or avoidable production.

Priority categories:

- Single-use plastics.
- Problematic and avoidable products.
- Plastics containing hazardous additives.
- Products generating intentionally added microplastics.

These criteria ensure global measures target the most harmful and unnecessary plastics.

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

Key enabling factors include:

- Mapping accumulation zones using community-based monitoring and scientific tools.
- Gender-responsive remediation strategies that protect women and waste pickers from toxic exposure.
- Dedicated funding for community-led clean-ups and safe removal technologies.
- Technology access for safe remediation without creating new health risks.
- Clear safeguards ensuring remediation does not justify continued production.

Legacy pollution must be addressed without undermining upstream measures.

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

Parties should cooperate through:

- Shared standards for safe waste handling, avoiding toxic exposure.
- Technology transfer for waste prevention, reuse systems, and safe recycling.
- Regional coordination on transboundary waste flows.
- Support for informal workers through just transition measures.
- Integration of gender-responsive approaches in waste management policies.

Cluster C – Capacity Building, Technology Transfer, Financial Resources

1. Mobilizing financial sources: Financial resources must be predictable, adequate, and accessible. Key elements:

- Assessed contributions from Parties.
- Public finance dedicated to upstream measures.
- Polluter-pays mechanisms and extended producer responsibility.
- Funding windows for gender-responsive implementation.
- Direct access for communities, women's organizations, and waste picker cooperatives.

Mobilization must prioritize upstream action and health protection.

2. Role of the private sector: The private sector must contribute through:

- Mandatory financial obligations, not voluntary contributions.
- Transparency on chemical composition and supply chains.
- Investments in safe alternatives and non-toxic design.
- Support for just transition measures for workers.

Private sector involvement must never undermine public-interest decision-making.

3. Technology transfer provisions:

Technology transfer must be:

- Affordable and non-discriminatory.
- Prioritized for upstream solutions: production reduction, elimination of toxics, reuse systems.
- Responsive to national capacities and community needs.
- Accompanied by training, maintenance support, and gender-responsive capacity building.

International cooperation must ensure equitable access to safe technologies.

Cluster D – Principles, Objective, Definitions, Just Transition, Public Awareness, Secretariat, Final Provisions

1. Principles and approaches - The instrument should be guided by:

- Human rights.
- Gender equality.
- Precautionary principle.
- Polluter-pays.
- Intergenerational equity.
- Full life-cycle approach.

These principles must appear in operative text, not only in the preamble, to ensure legal clarity and enforceability.

2. Role of public information, awareness, education, and research.

These elements support implementation by:

- Empowering communities with accessible information on chemical hazards.
- Supporting behavioral change toward reuse, refill, and reduction.
- Strengthening monitoring through community science.
- Ensuring gender-responsive outreach and education.
- Enhancing transparency and accountability.

Public awareness is essential for societal transformation.

3. Adequacy of current formulations.

While progress has been made, further refinement is needed:

- Definitions must be science-based, aligned with a full life-cycle approach, and free of loopholes.
- Secretariat provisions must ensure transparency, independence, and meaningful observer participation.
- Just transition language must explicitly protect women, informal workers, and frontline communities.
- Final provisions must guarantee coherence with other MEAs and human rights obligations.