



SECURING ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS FOR AN EFFECTIVE TREATY ON PLASTIC POLLUTION

WWF's Submission to the second informal in-person Heads of
Delegation meeting, Bangkok, 27-30 September 2026

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OVERARCHING CONSIDERATIONS

A treaty with only national actions, and without mechanisms for harmonising binding actions amongst countries who are willing to do so, will be inadequate and ineffective against the plastic pollution crisis. It would be a continuation of business as usual, failing to transform the production and consumption of plastics, and failing to protect human health and the environment against plastic pollution.

Given the scale and urgency of the plastic pollution crisis, the treaty's starting basis must be designed for both early impacts, even at the outset when participation may be limited, and progressive strengthening. WWF's newly released report [Tipping Point](#) finds that if the starting group of parties to the treaty holds a critical share of the market (10-20% of global plastic consumption), the common binding rules that they adopt can launch the global transition away from many high-risk plastic products, creating market signals that reach beyond their own borders and encourage other countries to join. The countries that have already expressed support for common binding measures on high-risk plastic products in the treaty account for 20-41% of global plastic consumption.

The Chair's intent to structure the INC's discussion and engagement towards INC-5.4 has been constructive. Yet, the first iteration of the Aid to Negotiations (AtN) presents fundamental shortcomings that warrant critical examination. In its current form, the AtN risks eroding previously achieved progress and departs in significant ways from the comprehensive mandate established under UNEA Resolution 5/14. These shortcomings have also been highlighted by the [Scientist Coalition for an Effective Plastics Treaty](#), and other CSOs such as [CIEL](#), [EIA](#), the [Break Free From Plastic movement](#), the [Business Coalition For A Global Plastics Treaty](#), among others.

WWF urges negotiators to use the Bangkok meeting to restore, clarify and strengthen the core foundations of an effective treaty in the basis for negotiations at INC-5.4, including:

- Common binding measures among parties to phase out problematic plastic products, including those containing chemicals of concern;
- A basis for the parties to develop and adopt common binding product design and system requirements for a non-toxic circular economy;
- A comprehensive package of finance and implementation support;
- Governance and institutional arrangements (e.g., mechanisms for monitoring, reporting and effectiveness evaluation, decision-making rules) that allow willing parties to adopt common binding measures and strengthen the treaty over time, gradually and effectively addressing the unsustainable patterns of production and consumption across the full lifecycle of plastics.

The treaty must respond to the negotiation mandate: to end plastic pollution with a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastic. The treaty should prioritise common binding measures to address the plastic products and product designs that are the most significant drivers of plastic pollution. To ensure long-term effectiveness, the treaty must not contain provisions that restrict its ability to develop necessary measures in the future to address all sources and drivers of plastic pollution. No activity or practice that contributes, directly or indirectly, to plastic pollution should be *a priori* excluded from regulation under the treaty.

Common binding measures to phase out and redesign harmful plastic products have been consistently supported by a strong majority of states throughout the negotiations. Over the last four years, [140 states](#) have called for global bans and phase outs and [129 states](#) have called for harmonised product design requirements. At INC 5.2, [Mexico and Switzerland, on behalf of 85 countries](#), submitted a proposal for treaty text and lists for phasing out problematic and harmful plastic products; the [United Kingdom and Chile, on behalf of 32 countries](#), also submitted a proposal on product design, that received significant support in the contact groups.

The substantive basis for INC-5.4 must not regress on these essential control measures, which a majority of states have progressively developed and supported for their inclusion in an effective treaty. The treaty must allow for the adoption of these measures among the willing majority of states.

Effectiveness of the treaty over time will also rely on a comprehensive and accessible finance package for implementation, and on the alignment of public and private financial flows with the treaty's objectives. Both of which can be made more efficient and effective through common binding rules amongst parties, as they provide clear directions for investments into research, innovations and scaling of sustainable alternatives, designs, systems, and business models.

Lastly, clear decision-making rules are essential to enable the COP to adapt its measures and implementation in accordance with emerging science and evidence. A proposal by Colombia and Peru at INC-5.2 on the COP decision-making rules was supported by [118 countries](#). The proposal follows precedents in Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA)—using simple majority and two-third majority as thresholds for decisions on procedures and substances, respectively, as fall-back option if consensus cannot be reached. These rules will allow future annexes, control measures and amendments to be adopted in practice, especially where substantive issues need to be developed progressively over time.

Different national circumstances mean that flexibility may be needed regarding sequencing of actions, implementation timelines and modalities. But countries must not accept a lowest-common-denominator text that delays—or worse, prevents indefinitely—meaningful actions. The next iteration of the AtN must give willing countries a credible basis to move first on binding common measures to phase out and redesign harmful plastic products, deliver early impact, and build the conditions for broader participation and stronger measures over time.

The treaty should enter into force once parties account for sufficient market shares, to make its common rules effective from the outset—at least 20% of global plastic consumption. This threshold would help ensure that the group of initial parties is large enough to influence and kickstart the global transition. Under the logic outlined in WWF's *Tipping Point* report, a treaty does not need universal participation at the outset to begin shifting markets. A starting coalition whose common binding rules affect enough demand to create predictable signals for producers, investors and value chains can trigger early changes, while creating incentives for wider participation and stronger ambition over time.

With treaty designs that are fit for purpose and enough supporting parties, the treaty can start making impacts—it does not need universal participation on day one to begin changing markets. Common binding rules can create clearer market signals for the global plastics economy, while adequate finance, technology transfer and capacity-building can help parties implement those rules in practice. Together, these elements can support early action by a strong starting group of parties, generate self-reinforcing incentives for industries and markets, and encourage wider participation over time.

The Bangkok discussions are organised by cluster, but the effectiveness of the treaty will depend on how cross-cutting design choices are reflected across all clusters. The AtN in its current form requires substantive revisions to provide a comprehensive basis for negotiations. **Table 1** outlines the essential elements that must be restored or strengthened in the next iteration of the AtN, and indicates where they are most relevant to each cluster discussion.

Table 1. Essential elements that must be restored or strengthened in the next iteration of the AtN

Area	Current gap	Priority for the next iteration	Why it matters
Objective (cluster D) and Scope (not in clusters)	References to human health and a comprehensive lifecycle approach remain unresolved; scope remains under discussion.	Preserve a comprehensive lifecycle approach and the protection of human health and the environment; the scope must not limit the instrument's ability to address all significant sources and drivers of plastic pollution.	This anchors the treaty's purpose and prevents narrow interpretations that exclude any sources or drivers of harms caused by plastic pollution. It is the benchmark for assessing the treaty's effectiveness in the protection of the environment and human health across the full life cycle of plastics.
Plastic Products (cluster B)	Criteria exist but there is no operational pathway for global measures and no functioning annex architecture.	Retain an annex-based mechanism and establish a pathway through which Parties can identify, list and adopt common binding measures to phase out problematic plastic products, with flexibility for potential differentiation in implementation timelines based on national circumstances and capabilities.	Criteria alone will not reduce pollution. Negotiators need an annex that turns the assessments on high-risk products into common binding phase-outs of specific products, across all markets of parties.
Chemicals of concern (cluster B)	References remain limited and uncertain.	Ensure chemicals of concern remain within the treaty architecture and can be addressed by treaty measures. No activity or practice that contributes, directly or indirectly, to plastic pollution should be <i>a priori</i> excluded from regulation under the treaty.	Chemicals of concern are inseparable from the health and environmental impacts of plastics. Keeping them in scope is essential to avoid toxic circularity and prevent regrettable substitution.
Product design (cluster B)	Strong principles remain, but there is no basis for common requirements that will provide a strong enough signal to redirect investments, innovation, and product changes.	Enable development and adoption of common product design and system requirements, and transparency provisions that support a non-toxic circular economy, with flexibility for potential differentiation in implementation timelines based on national circumstances and capabilities.	Design rules determine whether remaining plastics can be safely reused, recycled or managed. Common requirements give producers and investors predictable signals and reduce fragmented national approaches.

Finance and Means of Implementation (cluster C)	Core obligations remain unresolved.	Preserve a comprehensive finance package and maintain strong provisions on support to the implementation of common binding measures.	Ambition will fail without delivery support. Predictable finance and implementation assistance are essential for participation, compliance and a just transition.
National Plans, Monitoring, Reporting, Effectiveness Evaluation (cluster A)	Weak links between planning, reporting and effectiveness evaluation.	Strengthen the cycle connecting national plans, reporting, effectiveness evaluation and future COP action.	These provisions are the treaty's accountability loop. They must show whether measures are working, reveal implementation gaps and trigger COP decisions on stronger actions and more robust support where needed.
Decision-making (not in clusters)	Decision-making provisions remain unresolved.	Restore the 2/3 majority decision-making threshold on matters of substance, allowing the treaty to evolve and adopt future measures, annexes and amendments in practice.	Consensus-only rules could block annexes, amendments and future control measures. A voting fallback is needed to avoid paralysis and allow willing parties to strengthen the treaty over time. Having the option to vote is indeed an essential part to building consensus.
Scientific and technical support (not in clusters)	The role of subsidiary bodies remains uncertain.	Ensure scientific and technical advice can support implementation, evaluation and future decision-making.	The treaty will need technical capacity after adoption. Subsidiary bodies can keep decisions evidence-based, support implementation and inform future listings or requirements.
Entry into force (not in clusters)	No link to factors relevant to global value chains transformation or treaty effectiveness and impact, i.e. market share	Link the entry into force condition to Parties together accounting for at least 20% of global plastic consumption, to ensure sufficient impact at the outset when the treaty comes into effect.	The treaty should have market relevance from day one. A consumption-share threshold helps ensure the parties can create real demand signals and incentivise wider participation, immediately upon the entry into force of the treaty's obligations.

The cluster-specific inputs below should be read together with the overarching considerations above. Across all clusters, WWF's central recommendation is that the AtN must preserve a pathway for common binding measures, supported by finance, reporting, effectiveness evaluation and decision-making rules that allow the treaty to deliver early impact and strengthen over time.

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?*

National action plans (NAPs) are implementation tools that help countries operationalise binding obligations and voluntary actions under the treaty according to national context and circumstances. To be effective, they must be linked to reporting and review processes and aligned with the treaty's objectives, binding measures, and timelines.

The treaty must ensure that the parties' obligation to develop and implement national plans is linked to the binding global obligations—including harmonised requirements on product design standards and bans on harmful plastics and chemicals. Relying solely on NAPs perpetuates an ineffective, business-as-usual approach and defeats the purpose of a global, legally binding agreement to tackle transboundary plastic pollution.

Minimum common essential elements to be included in NAPs to ensure comparability while preserving national flexibility may be as follows:

- Actions on the treaty's binding rules on product bans and phase-outs of harmful plastics, adopting a phased approach based on the country's context and capacities including any transition period
 - *How will the country implement its binding obligations under the treaty to not allow the manufacture, export or import of plastic products that are listed in Annex [Y], after their corresponding phase-out dates, based on assessment against criteria related to their potential adverse impacts on human health and the environment?*
- Actions on the treaty's harmonised product design requirements, adopting a phased approach based on the country's context and capacities, including any transition period
 - *How will the country ensure plastic products comply with global criteria on product design and performance, in pursuit of circular economy approaches and taking due consideration of the relevant systems to enable plastic circularity, including Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes, corresponding systems for reuse, recycling and waste management?*
- Actions to advance sustainable production and consumption by integrating qualitative measures and measurable indicators to track reductions in production and consumption, complemented by regular reporting on progress and outcomes.
 - Targets and actions on waste management, releases and leakages, including establishing baselines and monitoring progress
 - Targets and actions on other voluntary measures across the plastic life cycle

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?*

No treaty can resolve every issue at the point of adoption. Its long-term effectiveness will depend on the institutional and governance mechanisms that enable it to respond to new knowledge, emerging challenges and implementation experience. **The current text retains some elements required for such evolution, including national plans, reporting, effectiveness evaluation, compliance mechanisms, subsidiary bodies, amendment procedures. These provisions should remain central to the negotiations, but their relationship must be strengthened in the next iteration of the AtN.**

Effectiveness evaluations of the instrument should be directly linked to the overall design of the treaty, including clear and verifiable binding measures, targeted flexibility and facilitative support for implementation, as well as provisions that create market incentives for compliance and participation, so that these elements can be assessed and strengthened over time to improve implementation.

Reporting is the bridge to effectiveness evaluation, where mandatory, regular, and standardised reporting should serve as the primary data stream to measure national progress and aggregate global success. It should provide the foundation for global effectiveness evaluation, allow the COP to systematically review treaty effectiveness and determine the necessary adjustments to strengthen the instrument over time.

Effectiveness evaluation should assess the collective outcomes of parties' implementation of and compliance with binding measures, as well as progress towards the objective of ending plastic pollution. It should identify gaps, emerging challenges and issues that the treaty has not yet addressed adequately. These findings should systematically inform COP decisions on adjustments, additional measures and future strengthening of the instrument.

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 cover risk assessments for plastic products and associated chemicals of concern, environmental and health safeguards for prioritising action, and information on measures taken by parties, including product bans, design requirements, best available techniques, technologies and practices to address plastic pollution across the full life cycle of plastics.

Information on production and consumption levels, supported by harmonised data and indicators, can provide a practical basis for identifying trends and facilitate cooperation among parties.

- Parties may share information directly with each other or through the Secretariat. Each party should designate a national focal point for the exchange of information.
- Secretariat should be mandated to fulfil a clearing-house function, ensuring knowledge and information are effectively communicated amongst parties, as well as with other intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations with expertise in the area of plastic pollution.
- Information relevant to the protection of human health and the environment should not be treated as confidential, ensuring that transparency remains the default while allowing for the protection of legitimately confidential information.

CLUSTER B

- *Plastic products*
- *Plastic products design*
- *Releases and leakages*
- *Existing and legacy plastic pollution*
- *Plastic waste management*

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

Evidence shows that most plastics found in the environment are concentrated in a limited number of product categories—notably single-use plastics (including packaging), microplastics and fishing gear. These products share common characteristics but also end up in the environment for different reasons: some are intended for short or single-use (e.g. packaging and take-away items), others are intended for longer use but are prone to loss (fishing gear) or abrasion, releasing/leaking microplastic during normal use. The risk of pollution is strongly linked to product characteristics and use patterns; and the most cost-efficient approach is to address these risks upstream. A sectoral approach in identifying problematic plastic products would help the treaty prioritise its measures, urgently addressing the products belonging to sectors with the highest risks of pollution.

Two key control measures—phaseouts, and design and system requirements for high-risk plastic products—are the minimum starting point for the treaty’s effectiveness. Together, they can eliminate or significantly reduce the pollution caused by most high-risk plastic products.

The treaty must allow willing countries to coordinate on common binding measures to phase out problematic plastic products and address other significant sources and drivers of plastic pollution. A treaty capable of transforming markets will require the establishment of credible signals and incentives for industries—through common binding rules among parties—to progressively improve product design and systems to handle them across markets and value chains.

See: **Figure 1** for an overview of the criteria to assess problematic and avoidable plastic products, and the appropriate corresponding control measures based on feasibility; and **Table 2** for recommendations related to the revision of articles on plastic products and product design.

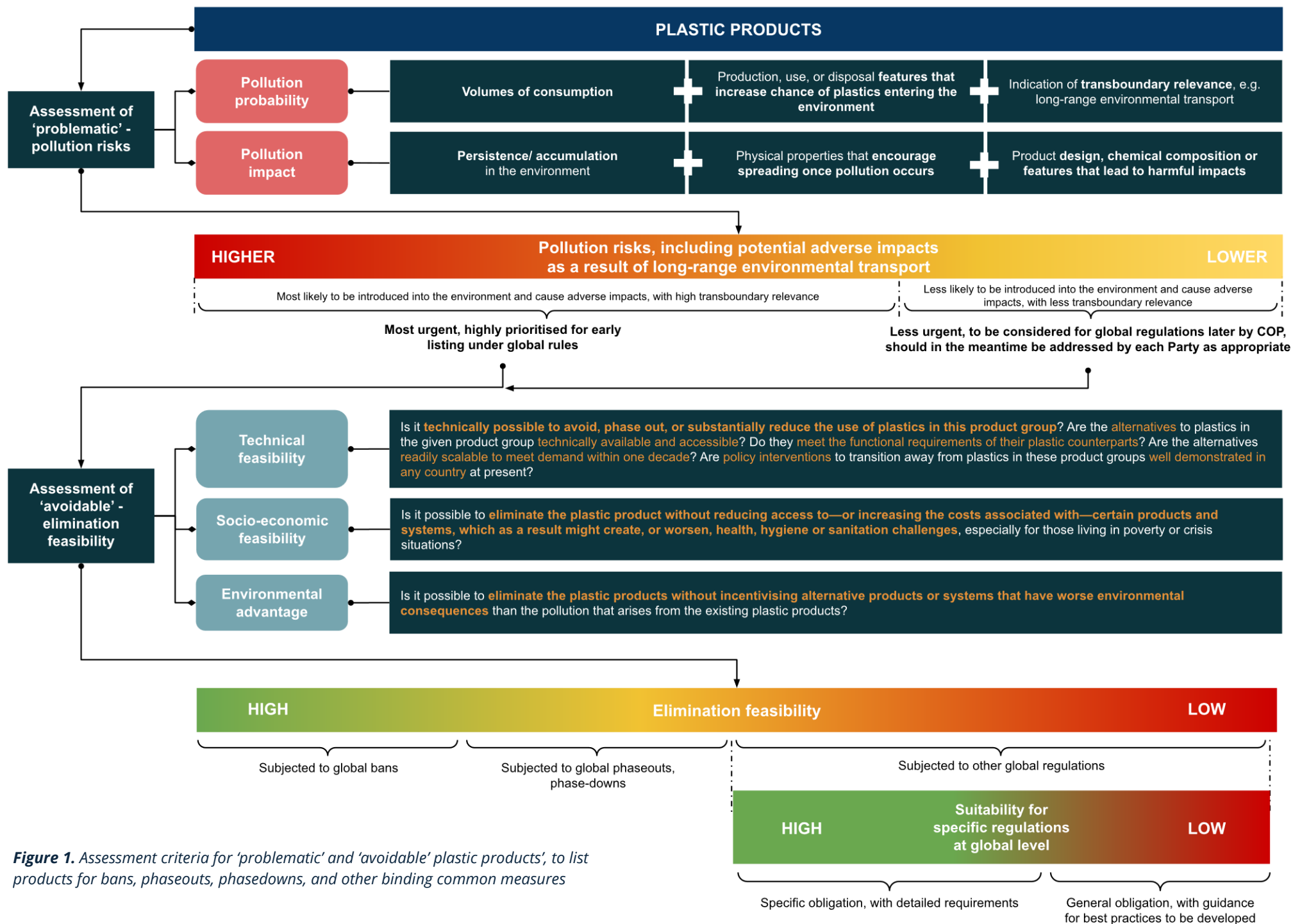


Figure 1. Assessment criteria for 'problematic' and 'avoidable' plastic products, to list products for bans, phaseouts, phasedowns, and other binding common measures

Table 2. *Essential control measures for an effective treaty*

Article	Status	The next iteration must contain	Additional references
Plastic Products	- Contains some criteria (much are still bracketed) for identifying products of concern, including products likely to enter the environment, products incompatible with circularity, products posing unacceptable risks, and products containing chemicals of concern. - No clear mechanism to translate criteria into internationally agreed control measures. - The link between product identification, scientific assessment, COP decision-making, and implementation remains incomplete.	- Clear product criteria, including chemicals of concern; - An annex-based architecture for listing plastic products that are subject to common binding phase-outs; - A science-based proposal and review process; and - A pathway for COP decisions on product phase-outs and associated measures, allowing measures agreed by Parties to become operational under the Convention, with flexibility for potential differentiation in implementation timelines.	See WWF (2023) Breaking down high-risk plastic products; Regulating high-risk plastic products for recommendations on criteria and binding measures to address prioritised plastic products. See WWF (2025) Plastics, Health and One Planet for a literary synthesis on chemicals of concern.
Product design	- Retain important references to durability, reusability, refillability, repairability, recyclability, and information transparency. - Provides a foundation for improving product design and circularity, but implementation remains largely nationally determined. - Does not establish a process for developing common international product-design or systems requirements. - Lacks a mandate for the COP to adopt, update, and strengthen product-design requirements over time. - Transparency provisions on materials, additives, and product characteristics remain important but require preservation and operationalization. - Does not provide sufficiently strong common signals or incentives to drive market-wide improvements in product design across value chains.	- Establish a COP mandate to develop and periodically update common binding product-design and systems requirements. - Ensure requirements are informed by science, implementation experience, and technological developments. - Strengthen and preserve transparency provisions on materials, additives, and product characteristics relevant to safety and circularity. - Create mechanisms for progressive strengthening of product-design requirements over time. - Establish common binding rules among parties to provide clear market signals and incentives for industry to improve product design and circularity across markets and value chains, with flexibility for potential differentiation in implementation timelines.	See Deloitte (2023) Design for Circularity and WWF (2023) Unpacking Reuse in the Plastic Pollution Treaty for recommendations on principles, criteria and specific requirements for product design and system.

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?*

Effectively addressing existing pollution, including in areas beyond national jurisdiction, will require collective actions by all parties and cannot rely only on individual parties' measures. Paragraph 3(c) of UNEA Res 5/14 expressly mandates the agreement to include provisions "to promote national and international cooperative measures to reduce plastic pollution in the marine environment, including existing plastic pollution."

The treaty should mandate the development of a framework for identifying priority hotspots, especially in shared marine environments, and facilitating international cooperation and coordination amongst Parties as well as with existing instruments (e.g., BBNJ).

The instrument should facilitate international cooperation by mobilising predictable and adequate financial, technical and capacity-building support to address legacy plastic pollution, proportionate with the scale of the challenge and national circumstances.

Existing plastic pollution will become increasingly costly and difficult to address without effective measures to reduce and eventually halt the flow of plastic pollution. The emphasis must be on prevention, to avoid perpetual legacy burdens.

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

Provisions on releases, leakages and waste management will only be feasible, and cost-efficient when there are effective measures across the full life cycle of plastics:

- **Elimination of problematic products from the economy and waste streams:** Binding global obligations to phase out plastic products that are most prone to leakage or otherwise become pollutants—such as certain single-use plastics, microplastics and high-risk fishing gear—directly reduce the volume of materials entering waste streams and the environment.
- **Improved product design:** Harmonised design requirements can ensure that products that remain on the market are durable, reusable, recyclable, and free from harmful substances, including those that contribute to microplastic pollution. Better design reduces the likelihood of release and is a decisive factor for the performance of plastics value retention processes and waste management systems.
- **Compatibility with systems:** Products designed in alignment with collection, reuse and recycling systems enable more effective implementation of measures such as extended producer responsibility (EPR) and deposit-return systems (DRS), reducing leakage risks and lowering costs.

Without such upstream control measures, efforts to address releases, leakages and waste management downstream become significantly more costly, and in most cases, not feasible in practice. Conversely, strong provisions on products and design enable downstream measures to function effectively and at scale. Additionally, provisions on releases, leakages, and waste management systems should support the identification of major sources of releases and leakages, so that product bans, design improvements and system interventions can prioritise main sources of pollution.

This can be further strengthened through provisions requiring Parties to ensure that recycling and waste management systems follow globally harmonised environmentally sound waste management (ESWM) standards, in accordance with the waste management hierarchy.

The instrument can mandate the implementation of proven methods for increasing collection of products with high pollution risk e.g. Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) systems for beverage containers. Such measures can directly and efficiently reduce transboundary pollution risk. Obligations on WM should be tailored to the objective of the instrument as to address plastic pollution, not improve waste management generally.

Measures to ensure that there is private-sector funding for waste collection, recycling, and management through extended producer responsibility approaches could contribute as well to more effective waste management. More effective systems, including waste management, must incorporate just transition principles, supporting the inclusion of waste pickers and other workers in informal and cooperative sectors in collection and, circularity and value retention processes, while ensuring safe working conditions and access to adequate resources.

CLUSTER C

- *Financial resources and mechanism*
- *Capacity-building, technical assistance, and technology transfer, including international*

Implementation support is one of the foundations of treaty effectiveness. A treaty built on common binding measures will only deliver early and equitable impact if parties also agree on adequate, accessible and predictable finance, capacity-building, technical assistance, technology transfer and international cooperation. And vice versa, implementation support is most efficient and produce the best outcomes when the measures are binding, specific, and tackling the plastic products with the highest risks of pollution in a coordinated manner.

Cluster C should therefore be approached as the delivery architecture for the treaty's substantive obligations, especially for countries requiring support to implement common binding measures while advancing a just transition.

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

To effectively mobilise all available financial sources, negotiators should ensure the treaty includes a comprehensive finance package built around the alignment of financial flows, and the mobilisation of financial resources and implementation support.

This is particularly important because common binding measures will only generate real-world impact when the treaty also provides the means for parties, especially Least-Developed-Countries (LDCs) and Small-Island-Developing-States (SIDS), to implement them. Implementation support should also be designed to facilitate a just transition for workers, waste pickers and affected communities, ensuring that countries can implement common measures in ways that are socially inclusive and nationally appropriate.

Firstly, all public and private financial flows should be aligned with the treaty's objectives. This means not only increasing funding, but also redirecting existing investments, subsidies and economic incentives away from activities that drive plastic pollution and towards activities that support treaty implementation, including reduction, reuse, safer product design, recycling and waste management. The treaty should establish a commitment for Parties to progressively align relevant public and private fiscal and financial flows with its objective.

Secondly, the treaty should establish a dedicated financial mechanism capable of mobilising and distributing predictable, adequate, accessible and timely resources. The mechanism should be designed to draw from multiple sources, including public finance, private sector contributions, international financial institutions and other innovative financing approaches, and channel resources towards countries and activities that need support to implement treaty obligations. These resources should prioritise the measures that deliver the most urgent actions and the greatest impacts, including all binding measures to phase out and redesign plastic products with high pollution risks and supporting a just transition.

Finally, financial support alone will not be sufficient. The treaty should pair financial resources with capacity-building, technical assistance, technology transfer and knowledge sharing to ensure countries can effectively implement their obligations and maximise the impact of available funding. A treaty that only provides funding, without aligning wider financial flows and investment decisions through binding measures to phase out and redesign high-risk plastic products, will not mobilise the scale of resources needed to end plastic pollution.

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?

Given the private sector's central role across the plastics value chain, the treaty should create incentives and obligations that mobilise private-sector finance, expertise, innovation and implementation capacity in support of the treaty's objectives.

Firstly, private financial flows should be aligned with the treaty. Businesses, investors and financial institutions should progressively shift investments away from activities that increase plastic pollution and towards solutions that support treaty implementation, including reuse systems, safer product design, increased recycled content, waste management improvements and the phase-out of problematic products and chemicals. Common binding measures among parties to phase out and redesign high-risk plastic products, coupled with provisions on financial-flow alignment, are critical to unlocking finance at scale.

Secondly, the private sector should contribute to implementation financing through the polluter-pays principle. Mechanisms such as Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes can require producers and importers to assume greater financial responsibility for the lifecycle impacts of their products. This not only generates additional resources for implementation but also creates incentives to reduce waste and redesign products. The private sector expertise should also be leveraged to build capacity and provide technical assistance, helping the development of circularity solutions, including reuse, recycling and waste management systems, as well as adoption of safe alternatives.

Member states should seek a financial mechanism that does more than raise public funds. It should mobilise private capital, leverage private-sector expertise, align investment decisions with treaty objectives, and operationalise the polluter-pays principle through instruments such as EPR. In practice, the greatest contribution of the private sector may be not only what it finances, but how its investment decisions, business models and innovation capabilities are redirected to support the transition away from plastic pollution.

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

Technology transfer arrangements should support local innovation, regional manufacturing capacity, technical partnerships and knowledge sharing. They should ensure that technologies are accessible, appropriate and responsive to national circumstances, environmentally sound and capable of being deployed in practice with adequate finance, capacity-building and technical assistance.

Technology transfer should be designed as a practical tool for enabling all countries to implement treaty obligations, while recognising that countries have very different levels of technical, institutional and financial capacity. The objective should not simply be the transfer of technologies themselves, but ensuring that all parties can access, adapt and deploy solutions needed to prevent and end plastic pollution, in alignment with the treaty's binding common measures. Particular attention should be on addressing the needs of LDCs and SIDS.

States should ensure the next iteration of the AtN includes provisions that:

- Facilitate access to environmentally sound technologies across the plastics lifecycle;
- Prioritise the needs of developing countries, particularly LDCs and SIDS;

- Link technology transfer with finance, capacity building and technical assistance;
- Create mechanisms for international cooperation, knowledge-sharing and matchmaking; and
- Support domestic capacity development so technologies can be effectively deployed and sustained over time.

The most effective technology-transfer provisions will not focus solely on transferring equipment or intellectual know-how. They will create a broader system of cooperation that enables all countries to implement treaty obligations and progressively strengthen action to end plastic pollution.

CLUSTER D

- *Preamble*
 - *Objective*
 - *Principles and approaches*
 - *Just transition*
 - *Health*
 - *Public information, awareness, education and research*
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?*

Discussions should focus on *how principles are operationalised*. Principles are only valuable if they help drive implementation, decision-making and treaty effectiveness in practice. Three broad principles and approaches could be important to discuss:

a) A full life-cycle approach

The treaty should be guided by the principle that plastic pollution must be addressed across the full life cycle of plastics, as mandated by UNEA Resolution 5/14. Effective implementation requires measures that address upstream, midstream and downstream sources of pollution, rather than focusing only on waste management.

b) Precaution and science-based decision-making

Given growing evidence regarding the impacts of plastic pollution, microplastics and chemicals of concern, the precautionary approach and best available science should guide implementation. This is particularly relevant for identifying problematic plastic products and chemicals, setting product design requirements, evaluating effectiveness, and informing future decisions of the Conference of the Parties (COP).

c) Just transition and equity

Implementation should ensure that the transition away from plastic pollution is fair, inclusive and responsive to different national circumstances and capacities. This includes recognising the needs of developing countries particularly with regard to sequencing of actions, implementation timelines and modalities, supporting waste workers and affected communities, and ensuring adequate finance, technology transfer, capacity-building and technical assistance. Flexibility should apply to implementation pathways and support arrangements, without weakening core obligations.

A standalone principles article may provide useful interpretative guidance, but effective implementation will ultimately depend on how those principles are translated into concrete obligations and institutional arrangements. A practical approach would be to integrate principles directly into the treaty's operative provisions rather than relying solely on a standalone article. Relevant principles can be reflected in the preamble, substantive obligations and relevant articles related to treaty governance.

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

Public information, awareness, education and research should support implementation by creating the knowledge base, public legitimacy and behavioural conditions needed for effective treaty delivery.

The treaty should require parties to promote public access to information on plastic pollution, including information on product risks, chemicals of concern, safe alternatives, reuse systems, waste prevention and environmentally sound waste management.

These provisions should be linked to reporting, information exchange and effectiveness evaluation, so that public-facing information reflects the best available science and supports accountability.

Research provisions should prioritise evidence needed to identify high-risk products and chemicals, evaluate the effectiveness of measures, monitor pollution trends, and support innovation in prevention, reuse, safer design and non-toxic circular systems.

3. *Considering the progress achieved so far in the 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 current formulations have covered some details, but the next iteration must correspond with the core control measures that are decided on by the parties. The treaty text would need to provide sufficient detail on the Secretariat and definitions to ensure the treaty can operate effectively from entry into force. However, more specific modalities and technical guidance can be further developed afterwards.

The Secretariat should be mandated not only to provide administrative support, but also to facilitate information exchange, support reporting and review processes, coordinate technical assistance, assist the COP and subsidiary bodies, and maintain links with relevant international organisations and instruments.

Definitions should be clear enough to support implementation of binding measures, including definitions relevant to plastic products, plastic pollution, chemicals of concern, reuse, recycling, leakage, releases and environmentally sound waste management. Where definitions are technically complex or likely to evolve, the treaty should allow the COP to refine relevant guidance or annexes over time without weakening the objective or narrowing the full life-cycle scope of the instrument.



or visit:

wwfpanda.org/plastictreaty

for information on the treaty negotiation, including timeline, reports and briefs to the INC process



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