Call for written submissions – Proposed response template on the potential options for elements towards an international legally binding instrument

On 9 December 2022, the Executive Secretary of the INC Plastic Pollution Secretariat sent a notification inviting written submissions from members of the committee and from stakeholders. The template below is intended to provide guidance to members of the committee and stakeholders in structuring the written submissions.

As requested by INC-1, written submissions will inform the secretariat in the preparation of a document with potential options for elements towards an international legally binding instrument, for consideration at the second session of the INC, without in any way prejudging what the committee might decide regarding the structure and provisions of the instrument. The document is to be based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastics as called for by UNEA resolution 5/14, including identifying the objective, substantive provisions including core obligations, control measures, and voluntary approaches, implementation measures, and means of implementation.

The template below is meant to assist Members and stakeholders to prepare their written submission as a guide. A number of documents prepared for INC-1 are of relevance, notably UNEP/PP/INC.1/5 on ‘Potential elements, based on provisions in paragraphs 3 and 4 of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/14, including key concepts, procedures and mechanisms of legally binding multilateral agreements that may be relevant to furthering implementation and compliance under the future international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment’.

The template is divided into three sections:

I. Substantive elements
II. Implementation elements
III. Additional input

All written submissions must be sent to unep-incplastic.secretariat@un.org. The statements received will be compiled and made available the INC webpage.

Please note that it is not required for all fields to be answered in the template for submission.

Deadline for submissions:

- 6 January 2023 for written submissions from stakeholders.
- 10 February 2023 for written submissions from Members of the Committee.
I. Substantive elements

1. Objective(s)

   a) What objective(s) could be set out in the instrument?

   Proposed Objective:
   To develop, implement and update national action plans reflecting country-driven approaches and needs initiating multi stakeholder action plans at all levels to address plastic pollution with the aim of reducing discharge of plastics into the environment in the plastic life cycle and adopting an inclusive and circular economy approach.

   Explanatory Text:
   Plastic pollution is a transboundary challenge that requires integrated and global action. There is no international instrument in place designed specifically to prevent plastic pollution throughout the entire plastics lifecycle. The instrument must tackle plastic pollution across the full lifecycle of plastics, from preventive measures in the upstream part of the lifecycle, to downstream ones addressing waste management, in order to prevent plastic pollution in the marine and other environments and to support the goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union vision 2063 in an integrated and inclusive manner.

2. Core obligations, control measures and voluntary approaches

   a) What core obligations, control measures and voluntary approaches would provide a comprehensive approach to addressing plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, throughout the full life cycle in line with the future objective(s) of the instrument?

   The establishment of frameworks and action plans with initiatives along the entire life cycle of plastics. The approaches should target products designed plastic free, promotes circular economy processes, encourages sustainable consumption, and aims to ensure that waste is prevented. A number of integrated approaches that leverages mechanism across the spectrum, to include
Regulatory, Financial and Education mechanism, and which combine both upstream and downstream measures, to create incentives that reduce production and consumption of plastics, while also increasing collection and recycling capacities.

II. Implementation elements

1. Implementation measures

   a) How to ensure implementation of the instrument at the national level (e.g. role national action plans contribute to meeting the objectives and obligations of the instrument?)

   b) How to ensure effectiveness of the instrument and have efficient national reporting?

   c) Please provide any other relevant proposals or priorities here on implementation measures (for example for scientific and technical cooperation and coordination as well as compliance).

, many institutions and organisations around the world are working diligently to eliminate plastic in nature, but are grappling with the challenges of addressing the problem at a local level, alongside national, regional and international efforts. Systemic failures across the life-cycle of plastics, such as the price of plastic that excludes the negative externalities to nature and society, cheap plastic resulting in prevalent single-use business models, low waste management capacities in developing countries, and a linear economic model that precludes recovery into high quality - high value resources, have led to plastic pollution on an unprecedented scale.

At the local and national level, in order for institutions to reduce their plastic footprint and the associated impacts on nature, society and the economy, we need new policy standards, new incentives for industry, and new models of innovation for plastic avoidance, use, reuse and plastic waste management as part of the national reporting tools.
2. Means of Implementation

With respect to means of implementation, document UNEP/PP/INC.1/5 covers the following elements: capacity-building, technical assistance, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and financial assistance.

a) What measures will be required to support the implementation of the instrument?

The following measure can support implementation of the instruments:

- **Public Awareness** - Develop public awareness campaigns in collaboration with business, Governments and NGOs, to change the way that plastic is viewed, used and managed as waste. Beach and coastal clean-ups can also increase public awareness and galvanize support across the community.

- **Public Procurement** – Implement Public procurement policies to give preference to environmentally preferable non-plastic products for city operations and contracts, and to set a model example for stakeholders to follow.

- **Local Government Municipal Collection** - Establish dedicated collection points throughout the city as well door-to-door waste collection capacity.

- **Source Segregation** – Establish sorting requirements to increase the quality of waste collected at the household or institutional level.

- **Sanitary landfills** - convert any existing open or uncontrolled dump sites into purpose built sanitary landfills.

- **Public-Private Partnerships** – Establish strategic partnerships that encourage businesses to make firm commitments on plastic towards transformative business models.

- **Municipal Unions** – Establish collective unions with neighboring municipalities to pool resources and increase capacity for collection and processing, as well as communal interventions in shared waterways, such as trash booms and racks in rivers and storm drains.
III. Additional input

Please provide any other relevant proposals or priorities here (for example introductory elements; awareness-raising, education and exchange of information; research; stakeholder engagement; institutional arrangements and final provisions).

Additional Inputs to support our contributions include:

- **Bans** on single-use plastics
- **Payment of waste as you Throw** – Charge fees at the local level for waste collection services.
- **Plastic Taxes and Levies** – Impose taxes and/or levies on manufacturers, retailers or consumers for use of single-use plastic items to support the transition to reuse systems.
- **Deposit Refund Schemes** – Implement a deposit refund scheme that requires consumers pay a small amount of money when buying plastic products, which can be reimbursed when they bring the container to a collection point after use.
- **Plastic Product Certifications** – Endorse third-party certifications, labels or rankings on products that are plastic-free, contain low volumes of plastics, or are composed of secondary plastics to help create awareness and drive market differentiation.