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 observers. The template below is intended to provide guidance to members of the committee and observers 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 Observers 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 observers.
• 10 February 2023 for written submissions from Members of the Committee.
### Template for Submissions

| Name of country (for Members of the committee) |  |
| Name of organization (for observers to the committee) | Endocrine Society |
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| Date | Xx Dec. 2022 |

## I. Substantive Elements

### 1. Objective(s)

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

**Proposed Objective:**
- 1. Protect human and ecological health by reducing/eliminating exposure to toxic chemicals present in plastics.
- 2. Facilitate access to information from the scientific community to update knowledge about potential harm from exposure to chemicals in plastics.

**Explanatory Text:**
We encourage the Committee to consider the treaty as an important public health opportunity that can achieve human and ecological health improvements through a reduction in exposure to harmful endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs) in plastic. This objective should be evaluated by longitudinal studies that measure the levels of chemical additives in humans and wildlife, with special emphasis on disproportionately impacted communities. Involvement of the scientific community should be encouraged to allow for better understanding of the effects of chemicals in plastics.

### 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?

**Ensure transparency and accountability:**
The instrument should support obligatory measures that ensure plastic producers and manufacturers of finished goods disclose the identity and volumes of chemicals used as additives in plastic. Such measures should hold companies accountable for additives at any concentration as EDCs can cause adverse health effects at extremely low,
environmentally relevant levels. Supporting this point, we note that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is implementing rules to ensure the disclosure of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at any level.

Reduce plastic production: We emphasize that recycling alone, or in combination with incineration, is not a solution to the issue of hazardous chemical exposures to plastic, in particular for vulnerable workers and communities. The instrument should include obligations to measure and report the production of plastic at a country or regional level, and introduce a milestone driven approach that reduces plastic production as part of a comprehensive approach to reducing, reusing, and recycling plastic products.

Restrict the use of hazardous chemicals: Consistent with previously adopted resolutions by the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM), the instrument should introduce obligations to restrict the use of hazardous classes of chemicals in plastic. We support group based approaches to prevent regrettable substitutions, in particular for classes of hazardous EDCs such as bisphenols, phthalates, and PFAS. While we welcome further research exploring the links between hazardous chemicals and adverse health effects, there is sufficient data to act now on these and other harmful chemical classes.

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).

   We emphasize that, due to the transboundary nature of plastic pollution, evaluation and reporting is necessary at all levels including national, regional, and global volumes. Collaborative approaches should be developed that allow regional networks of counties to quickly share information about plastic production and waste.

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?

   We reiterate that scientists must play integral roles in setting health-relevant objectives and evaluations for the treaty. Because endocrine-disrupting chemicals are prevalent as additives in plastic, we urge the Committee to directly involve scientists with expertise in endocrine systems and hormone biology in the design of the treaty and subsequent evaluation. Our members stand ready to
serve in this capacity and look forward to working with the Committee in upcoming meetings throughout the process.

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).