Proposed response template on written submissions prior to INC-3 (part b)

Potential Areas Identified by the Contact Groups

At its second session, the intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC) requested the secretariat to invite written submissions on:

- Any potential areas for intersessional work compiled by the co-facilitators of the two contact groups\(^1\), to inform the work of INC-3.

The template below was prepared by the secretariat, in consultation with the Chair, and is meant as a guide to assist Members and Observers in preparing their written submissions.

All written submissions must be sent to unep-incplastic_secretariat@un.org. The submissions received will be made available on the INC webpage.

Please note that not all fields in the template need to be answered in the submission.

**Deadline for submissions:**

I. **By 15 August 2023** for written submissions from observer organizations.

II. **By 15 September 2023** for written submissions from Members of the Committee.

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\(^1\) Contact Group 1 focused on Section A: Objective(s). Section B: Substantive Obligations; Contact Group 2 focused on Sections C: Means of Implementation. D: Implementation measures. E: Additional matters as contained in part II of the Annex to document UNEP/PP/INC.2/4.
**TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of country (for Members of the committee)</th>
<th>African Group</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of organization (for observers to the committee)</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact person and contact information for the submission</td>
<td>Mr. Oliver Boachie (Ghana) <a href="mailto:oliver.boachie@mesti.gov.gh">oliver.boachie@mesti.gov.gh</a> <a href="mailto:oliverboachie@gmail.com">oliverboachie@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Date of submission</td>
<td>15 September 2023</td>
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**Input on the potential areas of intersessional work to inform the work of INC-3 (following the lists compiled by the co-facilitators of the two contact groups)**

**Potential areas for intersessional work**

The list of potential areas for possible intersessional work compiled by the co-facilitators of the two contact groups at INC-2 is set out below. Members and observers may wish to provide input on one or more of these areas.

**Contact group 1:**

1. Information on definitions of, e.g., plastics, microplastics, circularity

2. Information on criteria, also considering different applications and sectoral requirements, including:
   
   a. Chemical substances of concern in plastics;
   b. Problematic and avoidable plastic polymers and products and related applications;
   c. Design e.g., for circularity, reuse;
   d. Substitutes and alternatives to plastic polymers and products;
   e. impacts on human health and pollution risk

3. Potential substances of concern in plastics, problematic and avoidable plastic polymers and products including:
   
   a. the intrinsic hazard of the material, polymer or chemical components;
   b. the risk of decomposition into microplastics that could become vectors of chemical and biological contaminants;
   c. likelihood of release into the environment/pollution risk
There is a need for intersessional work to develop criteria for problematic polymers and chemicals of concern to include in an Annex of the instrument. An Annex should contain an initial list of polymers and chemicals of concern to target for immediate control (e.g. phase out or elimination) based on existing knowledge.

4. Listing of control measures
5. Listing products categories for different control measures
6. Potential sources of release of microplastics (applications and sectors).
7. Transparency and information sharing obligations. The intersessional work should cover consideration of approaches for disclosure requirements.

(Please note: A longer list is included in the co-facilitators report on discussions in contact group 1. Submissions may also include input on any of the items in that longer list, such as, amongst others, the development of criteria to prioritise problematic and avoidable plastics; the development of targets for the reduction, reuse and repair of problematic and avoidable plastic products; or the guidelines on EPR)

Contact Group 2:

1. To consider the potential role, responsibilities and composition of a science and technical body [to support negotiation and/or implementation of the agreement]
2. To consider potential scope of and guidance for National Action Plans [including optional and/or suggested elements]
3. To identify current provisions within existing MEAs [and other instruments] on cooperation and coordination that could be considered
4. To consider how other MEAs provide for monitoring, and suggest best practice
5. To consider options to define ‘technology transfer on mutually agreed terms
6. To further consider how a potential financing mechanism could work including a new stand alone mechanism.
7. [To identify options to mobilize and align private and innovative finance (including in relation to matters at 24(e) and the proposed Global Plastic Pollution Fee (GPPF))]
8. To map current funding and finance available [to address plastic pollution] and determine the need for financial support for each Member
9. To identify capacity building, awareness and training needs for each Member
10. Evaluation and reporting system

Inputs relating to potential areas for intersessional work. Please identify clearly which area your input relates to.

Additional comments:

Prioritization of intersessional work

There is need for prioritization of the intersessional work to begin with the upstream measures including the elimination, reduction and phase down targets, on chemicals and substances of concern, on the problematic and avoidable plastic polymers and high-risk products and the criteria for granting exemption in uses. The plastics treaty will be effective if the upstream sources are significantly addressed and as urgently as possible.

Priority should be given to the criteria of identifying and scaling up sustainable alternatives systems, including reuse systems. These will ensure that all the problematic and non-essential plastics will have sustainable replacements.
Furthermore, mandatory requirements and standards on how products are designed and manufactured (including the materials/chemicals they contain) should be defined—products that do not meet the requirements are effectively prohibited or phased out.

Legacy plastics that have accumulated especially in developing countries should be prioritized. Their composition is not known and needs additional financing and technology. Intersessional work should consider how to deal with legacy plastics to achieve the goals of the convention.

As part of intersessional work, Technical Expert Working Groups with clear mandates and expected outputs should be established to guide the committee with best available technical knowledge and science.

Priority should also be given to the work on financial mechanism to ensure effective implementation and dedicated compliance [system to] [with] the treaty.

**It is important to ensure inclusivity and full participation of states in the intersessional work.**