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

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

- Elements not discussed at INC-2, such as principles and scope of the instrument

INC-2 further requested the secretariat to post any submissions received on the INC website and to prepare a synthesis report of the submissions.

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.

A number of documents prepared by the secretariat for INC-1 and INC-2 are of relevance to this submission, including:

UNEA resolution 5/14 on ‘End plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument’

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’

UNEP/PP/INC.1/6 on ‘Glossary of key terms’

UNEP/PP/INC.1/8 on ‘Description of standard articles on final provisions that are typically included in multilateral environmental agreements’

UNEP/PP/INC.2/4 on ‘Potential options for elements towards an international legally binding instrument, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastics as called for by United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/14’

UNEP/PP/INC.2/INF/4 on ‘Additional information linked to the options for the potential elements towards an international legally binding instrument’

UNEP/PP/INC.2/INF/7/REV.1 on ‘Information submitted by the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions’

All written submissions must be sent to unep-incplastic.secretariat@un.org. As detailed in the mandate, the submissions received will be made available on the INC webpage, a synthesis report of the submissions will also be developed in advance of INC-3.

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.
Elements not discussed at INC-2

1. Scope

What is the proposed scope for the future instrument?

Which types of substances, materials, products and behaviors should be covered by the future instrument?

Proposed scope:
As indicated by the UNEA Resolution (5/14), the purpose of the INC is to develop "the instrument," which is to be based on a comprehensive approach, addressing the full life cycle of plastic, including its production, design and disposal including in the marine environment. The proposed scope for the future instrument is to cover:
- primary plastic polymers;
- macroplastics and related products; and plastic waste.

Explanatory Text:
Then the proposed scope for the future instrument is to cover the production and design of plastics, the full life cycle of plastics (plastics use) and its disposal on land and in the marine environment.
I will stress that this instrument should take into account the case of plastics in developing countries such as Cameroon where the primary plastic polymers are imported with some plastic products also. However, low quality plastics are synthesized domestically with regional the contribution not negligible on plastic products used locally mostly for packaging and/or wrapping goods. And most important fact, is the total mismanagement of these plastics during their life cycle or at the end of life cycle in such a country.

2. Principles

What principles could be set out in the future instrument to guide its implementation?
Proposed principles:

The most important principle that could be set out in the future instrument to guide its implementation is “Polluter pays” principle. In addition to the legally binding nature of the instrument.

Explanatory Text:
Municipalities in a developing countries such as Cameroon do not have means for the sound management of waste generated by the population. Then this leads to all types (open dumping and open burning, littering, wrong reuse practices, bad recycling, etc...) of the mismanagement of plastics and related products. In additional most plastics found on the market or used for packaging or wrapping are either imported at the regional scale or mostly fabricated by the domestic companies. Then, domestic food and beverage companies are the great contributors to the plastics found uncontrolled dumped in the local environment. These companies should take their responsibility as great polluters of the environment by the plastics. They are making their business through selling their products in plastics and also should be responsible of the waste so generated.

3. Additional considerations

Provide any other relevant inputs, proposals or priorities here that have not been discussed at INC-2 (e.g. preamble; institutional arrangements, including governing body, subsidiary bodies, scientific and technical cooperation and coordination, and secretariat; final provisions including dispute settlements; and if appropriate annexes).

Proposed inputs:
There is no additional considerations from my organization.

Explanatory Text: