<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of country (for Members of the committee)</th>
<th>AUSTRALIA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of organization (for observers to the committee)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Contact person and contact information for the submission | Cameron Colebatch  
Australia’s INC Focal Point  
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water  
Australian Government  
[Cameron.Colebatch@dcceew.gov.au](mailto:Cameron.Colebatch@dcceew.gov.au) |
| Date | 15 September 2023 |
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:**

The mandate in UNEA Resolution 5/14 provides the scope for negotiations on the instrument, which includes a scope to address impacts from all sources of plastic pollution (including microplastics) on human health and the environment, including in the marine environment, across the full life cycle of plastics.

We note that a dedicated scope provision is not mandated by Resolution 5/14, and nor is one necessarily required. However, if a scope provision is to be included, Australia strongly supports that it remain consistent with the already agreed scope provided for in Resolution 5/14.

**Explanatory Text:**

Plastic pollution contributes to the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution as a consequence of the plastic leakage into the environment at every stage of its lifecycle. The evidence tells us that narrowing the scope to less than that provided for in Resolution 5/14 will jeopardise the instrument’s ability to achieve its intended objectives.
2. Principles

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

Australia requests that discussions on principles be guided by substantive articles of the instrument and existing international law, with a view to prioritising negotiations on the Objective and Parts II - IV of the zero-draft text. In this vein, we propose the following principles be considered during negotiations:

Principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

As outlined within UNEA Resolution 5/14, the instrument should be guided by the principles of the Rio Declaration and should also support the instrument’s specific content. These principles should be applied as a comprehensive framework, which will ensure consistency with other international agreements.

Human rights

Australia supports recognition of the human rights dimensions of addressing plastic pollution, and is supportive of an approach similar to that taken in the preamble to the Paris Agreement, which states that, ‘...Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights...”

Full recognition of the special circumstances of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and of Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

Australia requests that the INC considers the special circumstances of SIDS and LDCs, noting the disproportionate impacts from plastic pollution on SIDS and LDCs, their unique circumstances and challenges in managing plastic waste.

The use of the best available science and scientific information

Australia supports a treaty that is guided by independent evidence and scientific information.

First Nations peoples’ knowledge, perspectives and rights

Australia supports the incorporation of traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, as well as the respect, promotion and consideration of their rights when taking action to address plastic pollution.

Waste Hierarchy

Australia supports incorporating principles of the waste hierarchy into the text of the instrument, where appropriate, to complement a full life cycle approach in addressing plastic pollution. Embedding a preference for waste avoidance will allow the instrument to be guided by a comprehensive approach to ending plastic pollution, without a disproportionate focus on disposal and waste management. Efforts should be made to draw linkages with the Basel Convention.
Sustainable consumption and production

Australia requests that the INC consider incorporating sustainable consumption and production within the text of the treaty, where appropriate. As part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and noted in UNEA Resolution 5/14, sustainable consumption and production is fundamental to comprehensively addressing plastic pollution through the full lifecycle of plastics.

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:

Australia recommends that a technical working group be convened to compile relevant existing information and knowledge to progress the work of Contact Groups 1 and 2.

Australia recommends that INC-3 agrees to convene a Legal Group with the intent that it is established and operational by INC-4.

Australia considers that subsidiary bodies will be important, but that these should be established by the Parties only. The need for subsidiary bodies will change over time and the instrument will need to be flexible in allowing the Parties to respond to these changing needs into the future.