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 1:
Guarantee the welfare of waste workers

Explanatory Text:
Work out the clear definition of Waste Workers. The Treaty should recognize and support small workshops for waste workers. Acknowledge the contribution of waste pickers to plastic pollution control, and provide policy and tax support (such as: tax exemption, registration exemption).

For example, there are a large number of informal waste pickers in China, who collect plastic products and sell them, becoming a force that cannot be ignored in plastic pollution control. This group lacks professional training, sanitation facilities and safety and health protection facilities, and has not been officially recognized. Therefore, the support, official recognition and technical and financial assistance to this group need to be included in the Treaty.

Proposed scope 2:
Adopt unified product labeling standards in consideration of E (environmental) S (social) G (governance)

Explanatory Text:
All countries are required to formulate laws and standards, and plastic products are required to have label instructions: 1. How many recycled raw materials are used in the product? 2. What percentage of the product can be recycled and reused? 3. Product Warranty Period

Proposed scope 3:
Minimize the use of single-use plastics in the education system
Explanatory Text:
Case: Following the suggestion from CBCGDF, four departments in China, including the Ministry of Education, jointly introduced the “Plastic-Free Back-to-School Season” Policy in the autumn of 2019. This policy explicitly stated: “Plastic usage leads to white pollution, and some substandard plastic book covers contain formaldehyde and benzene, which have a negative impact on children’s neurological and physical development. In line with the national ‘plastic reduction’ requirements, efforts are made to achieve a ‘plastic-free back-to-school season’. Schools are not allowed to compel students to use plastic book covers, particularly those with problems.” For more details, please refer to: http://www.moe.gov.cn/srcsite/A26/s7054/201910/t20191022_404746.html

Proposed scope 4:
Promote sustainable agriculture and encourage agricultural sectors worldwide to reduce the use of single-use plastics

Explanatory Text:
Advocate ecological agriculture and promote the reduction of single-use plastics in the agricultural sector of different countries. For example, plastic pollution caused by plastic mulch in agriculture cannot be ignored, which has become a major source of pollution in some rural areas.

Case: CBCGDF supports many “ecological farms” and is trying to develop eco-friendly agriculture without disposable plastic mulch. It turns out that crops can grow just fine without plastic mulch.

2. Principles

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

Proposed principle 1:
Adapt measures to local conditions and technological innovations, such as replacing plastic with bamboo

Explanatory Text:
Encourage contracting countries to consider their local available resources as the substitute for plastics. For example, the Chinese government joined hands with other organizations and companies to develop the initiative and launched bamboo as the substitute for plastic to reduce plastic pollution.

Proposed principle 2:
Recognise “Green Consumption Rights” for consumers in the Treaty

Explanatory Text:
Case: Five years ago, we went to fast food restaurants to buy beverages and brought our own cups, but we were rejected. The cashier said that they had to use disposable cups to comply with their service procedures and specifications. Although we didn’t want disposable plastic cups, or disposable paper cups (they are usually lined with plastics), there was still no way to say “no” to this behavior.
To this end, CBCGDF launched the “Green Bottles Initiative” in China, advocating that businesses should respect consumers’ rights to green consumption. Moreover, in 2017, CBCGDF filed an environmental public interest lawsuit against six major food delivery platforms and successfully requested them to allow consumers to have the option of “no disposable tableware” when placing orders online. Through this bottom-up initiative, we successfully promoted the participation of more and more people, especially the young, making it a trend. Later, local legislations followed suit, including Shanghai, Beijing and other places, which issued laws one after another, clearly requiring that catering service providers and catering delivery service providers shall not provide consumers with disposable chopsticks, spoons and other tableware as default.

By clearly defining and advocating for “Green Consumption Rights”, we can empower consumers to make sustainable choices and drive businesses and governments to prioritize environmental considerations in their practices and policies.

Proposed principle 3:
Adhere to the principle of eliminating the use of single-use plastics

Explanatory Text:
Clearly include a provision in the Treaty stating that all Conferences of Parties (COPs) under the Treaty must adhere to the principle of eliminating the use of single-use plastics. This measure will underscore the commitment of all parties to tackle plastic pollution and promote the adoption of sustainable and eco-friendly alternatives in all aspects of the Treaty’s implementation. By collectively eliminating single-use plastics in COPs, the Treaty will set a powerful example for the world and reinforce the urgency and importance of addressing plastic pollution at the global level.

Proposed principle 4:
Create synergy among treaties, countries, regions and organizations

Explanatory Text:
Strengthen the synergy between the overlapping content of the Treaty and other instruments, and the content related to wildlife protection should be coordinated with the CMS Convention. For the governance content of the Treaty, the importance of regional collaborative governance needs to be emphasized, and it is advisable to advocate various treaties in different regions, countries and departments.

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 input 1:
Establish a Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) within the Treaty
Explanatory Text:

The CHM will serve as an information exchange and coordination mechanism to promote cooperation and information sharing among contracting parties. The primary objective of the CHM is to assist contracting parties in publishing, collecting, storing, disseminating, and accessing information and data related to land-based plastic pollution and marine plastic pollution. By implementing the CHM, the Treaty can enhance collaboration and coordination among its parties, avoid duplication of efforts, and ensure effective information exchange to better address global plastic pollution management, including challenges related to marine plastic pollution.

Proposed input 2:
Establish a Global Plastic Pollution Fund

Explanatory Text:
As a mechanism under the Treaty, the establishment of a dedicated fund aims to support projects and initiatives related to plastic pollution management, encouraging participation from both the public and private sectors. The Global Plastic Pollution Fund will be specifically designed to address the challenges posed by plastic pollution and facilitate the implementation of effective solutions worldwide. By providing financial resources and support, the fund will play a crucial role in promoting research, innovation, and sustainable practices, ultimately contributing to a cleaner and healthier environment for current and future generations.