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

Elements not discussed at INC-2

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of country (for Members of the committee)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Name of organization (for observers to the committee)</td>
<td>International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA)</td>
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<td>World Plastics Council (WPC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact person and contact information for the submission</td>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>15 August 2023</td>
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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:**

In line with UNEP/EA.5/Res.14, the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) and World Plastics Council (WPC) support governments’ efforts to craft an international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution. While the broad instrument may cover all plastics, governments should consider a phased approach across the life cycle of plastics, initially focusing the negotiations on actions to reduce plastic pollution of high leakage items into the environment.

Utilizing a science-based approach, the instrument should prioritize actions to advance circularity and address leakage of plastic waste into the environment, while recognizing the benefits of plastics to society and the need to consider the social and economic impacts of measures to address leakage of certain plastics. The global instrument should not duplicate existing efforts by other multilateral agreements and should seek to be synergistic with, for example, the regulation of chemical additives or the trade of plastic waste.

To maximize the impact of the global instrument, governments should establish clear definitions for terms such as plastic pollution, plastic leakage, plastic waste, and a full life cycle approach.

**Explanatory Text:**

*From our ambition,* we agree with the importance of sustainable consumption and production and creating well-designed plastic products that enable waste minimization. We also agree that creating universal access to collection and environmentally sound waste management is a key step toward circularity. Eliminating plastic pollution is not achievable until we close this gap and create a circular economy in which used plastics are no longer perceived as waste.

We’re championing a global agreement to achieve the goal of eliminating plastic pollution while retaining the societal benefits of plastics. Our approach reflects our vision and ambition, as well as our unique knowledge and technical capabilities as innovators and solutions providers. It also reflects the
need to respect each country’s unique situation and work collaboratively to accelerate progress toward eliminating plastic pollution.

2. Principles

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

**Proposed principles:**
We encourage governments to consider the following principles, some of which are included in Appendix 1 of UNEP/PP/INC.2/4.

**A range of solutions**
- The need for a range of solutions based on the waste hierarchy and what is most appropriate given national and regional circumstances.
- The specific needs and special circumstances of developing and least developed countries, including small island developing States.

**The role of the informal sector and importance of gender equality**
- The importance of the informal sector and social inclusion to enable a just transition.
- Gender equality and diversified perspectives, recognizing that marginalized and vulnerable communities are disproportionately affected by plastic pollution.

**A clean and healthy environment**
- The aspiration to seek a clean and healthy environment for all. As international law has not yet recognized a right to a healthy environment as a matter of international law, governments should continue to apply this aspiration in their domestic laws and policies.

**The value of post-consumer plastics**
- The need to re-value post-consumer plastics. Well-designed programs that incentivize the reuse of post-consumer items have proven to be successful for other waste materials. A well-designed program must be operated on a net-cost principle and revenues should be reinvested in infrastructure to collect, sort, and recycle plastic waste. Such programs enable communities to develop new enterprises utilizing materials that today are viewed as waste.
- Sustainable financing in the form of Extended producer responsibility (EPR).

**National policies, best available science, and transparency**
- National action plans, supplemented with enabling policies and global targets for reducing plastic waste, increasing the use of recycled content, and securing feedstock for increasing recycled content should be an essential part of the agreement.
- Transparency and data collection to support an effective transition to a more circular economy.
- Reliance on best available science, including the use of a risk-based approach.
- Plastic application-based approach to determine the risk of leakage of plastic into the environment.
- The need for waste management and recycling solutions to meet industrial emissions limits and comply with local regulations.
• Innovation principle which promotes smart, future-oriented regulations and policies designed to encourage innovation to deliver socially and environmentally beneficial progress.

Coordination with existing agreements
• The global instrument should not duplicate existing efforts by other multilateral agreements and should seek to be synergistic with, for example, the regulation of chemical additives or the trade of plastic waste.

Explanatory Text:
Our Vision is a world in which plastics are sustainably produced, designed, used, reused, and recycled in a circular economy and don’t become pollution. And a world where plastics contribute significantly to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including a lower carbon future.

To get there, we need to accelerate a circular economy in which plastic products and packaging are sustainably reused or recycled instead of discarded, enabled by a global agreement that unlocks industry innovation and global investment in plastics circularity.

To help end additional plastic pollution and accelerate a circular economy for plastics, the agreement should incentivize actions by all stakeholders, include specific global measures supporting effective implementation, foster multistakeholder participation in financing, and enable flexibility for national action plans while holding countries accountable.

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:
To increase the effectiveness of the instrument, governments should consider establishing an interim science body with participation by a range of scientists, including from industry. Such a group can support a science-based approach by facilitating scientific and technical information exchange to inform implementation of the instrument.