

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.

TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSIONS

Name of country (for Members of the committee)	INDIA
Name of organization (for observers to the committee)	
Contact person and contact information for the submission	Mr.Naresh Pal Gangwar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India Email: asnpg.mefcc@gov.in
Date	15.09.2023

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- in Annexure 1
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
3. Potential substances of concern in plastics, problematic and avoidable plastic polymers and products- As above.
4. Potential sources of release of micro-plastics (applications and sectors):- The sources of microplastics can be unintended or intended. This needs careful study and data collection over long time.

(Please note: A longer list is included in the co-facilitators report on discussions in contact group 1^[2]. 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 standalone mechanism, a hybrid mechanism, or an existing mechanism]
7. To identify options to mobilise 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 and training needs for each Member.

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

The following themes should be considered for inter-sessional work based upon deliberations and decision of INC as agreed:

Contact Group I

Inputs in regard item 2 (a)

Chemicals additive and other chemicals, which have

- i. Scientifically proven adverse impacts on human health and environment at concentration in which they are used in the polymers or plastic or plastic products;
- ii. scientifically proven studies for migration/leaching of such chemicals from plastic products to the environment so as to cause significant adverse impact to human health and environment at product stage;
- iii. In cases, the health and environment impacts are caused during other lifecycle stage then there is no mitigation measures possible.

Inputs in regard item 2 (b)

The products having adverse environment impact such as high littering propensity and low collectability and recyclability and which can be relatively easily substituted with viable alternatives without any substantial social and environmental impacts. The utility value of such products are low. The parameters to identify such products may be selected as follows:

- i. Low utility for maintaining hygiene
- ii. Low utility for product safety
- iii. Essentiality
- iv. Low social impact
- v. Low Economic impact
- vi. Difficult to collect after intended use.
- vii. Difficult to recycle
- viii. Whether feasible End of Life solutions exist?
- ix. Impact of Alternative on Environment
- x. Littering Propensity

Design e.g. for circularity, reuse- The design standards for various products should be dependent on national circumstances and should not be harmonized at global level. The consumer preferences and lifestyles vary across the countries and the usage of various products also is different. The products which are regarded as single use in developed countries are commonly reused in the developing countries. Imposing common designs will have unintended adverse impacts. The best practices and the appropriate designs should be shared among the parties so that they can choose the designs most suitable to their needs and usage.

Inputs in regard to S. Nos. 1 and 2(potential areas) of the Contact Croup 1:

1. Substitutes and alternatives to plastic polymers and products- The substitutes and alternatives should be environmentally safer than original products.

2. The alternatives should be technically feasible and economically viable. After careful

consideration and study of the above parameters only, they should be promoted.

3. All measures must factor in the cost implications as well as capabilities and capacities of transition

Inputs in regard to S. Nos. 5 to 8(potential areas) of the Contact Croup 2

1. Economic implications of the measures of the proposed legally binding instrument should be assessed in regard to each measure, both legally binding and voluntary.

2. The cost of adoption/implementation taking into account the affordability, accessibility, affordability of technologies and investments must be assessed.

^[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.

^[2] The report can be accessed here: <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/he42621/CG1.pdf>.