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.

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\(^1\) 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.
TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSIONS

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<tr>
<th>Name of country</th>
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</table>
| Contact person and contact information for the submission | Chifundo Chinyama  
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| Date of submission        | 15 September, 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
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
   c. Design e.g. for circularity, reuse
   d. Substitutes and alternatives to plastic polymers and products
3. Potential substances of concern in plastics, problematic and avoidable plastic polymers and products
4. Potential sources of release of microplastics (applications and sectors).

(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)

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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.

2. To consider potential scope of and guidance for National Action Plans [including optional and/or suggested elements]

   o We need to develop National Action Plans (NAP) which will allow national governments, especially developing countries, to make the right decisions for their context. In order to achieve this, NAPs should establish systems for consulting all relevant stakeholders including waste pickers and other affected communities. However, despite this need for flexibility, NAPs must not leave any room for governments (or companies) to renege on promises, miss targets or avoid the consequences of doing so. Mandating increased transparency is key in this regard.

   o National Action Plans need be crafted in such a way to include the development of legislation or policies that discourage or ban new capacity (industrial facilities/infrastructure) for Plastics production and to begin to phase-out harmful and problematic plastics in advance of the global phase-outs. One possible source of funding for implementation of National Action Plans (in the absence of a dedicated fund under the plastics treaty) can be the GEF window dedicated to the objectives of the Convention.

   o NAP should include elements on strategy development to increase circularity and manage non-packaging plastic products. The lifecycle impacts of plastic production cannot be addressed without considering all the uses of plastics in our economy. More than 55% of plastics are used in construction, transportation, medical equipment, technology and other applications. Increased recycling of these materials will increase the amount of recycled content available to offset the need for new fossil-based plastic production. Global and regional work is needed to develop
strategies to address textiles, carpets, automotive parts, construction materials, and other nonpackaging applications to increase the circularity of all plastics. (INC2 Options Paper Possible Core Obligations: 14 a (i))

5. To consider options to define ‘technology transfer on mutually agreed terms’

- Technology transfer should be core component in the instrument and there is a need to explore options and develop guidelines to define technology transfer on mutually agreed terms with favorable terms for the developing countries.

- Creation of a dedicated constituted body/committee responsible for discussing policies to deliver on technology transfer should be considered with membership of experts nominated by member states. The dedicated constituted body/committee can be responsible for the following:
  
  o **Identifying and sharing knowledge, technologies, and expertise** to address: principles for technology transfer, exceptions and limitations of intellectual property rights, principles ensuring equitable access and benefits for all participating countries in a manner that provides for flexibilities of intellectual property regimes and fosters international cooperation;
  o **Capacity building**: The body could provide technical assistance and capacity building to developing countries to help them adopt and implement environmentally sound technologies;
  o **Research and development**: The body could promote research and development of innovative solutions to plastic pollution;
  o **The guidelines**: can be developed to ensure equitable access to environmentally sound technologies for plastic waste management, recycling or alternative materials; and
  o **Monitoring and evaluation**: The body could establish a system for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of technology transfer policies and mechanisms. This could include tracking the adoption of environmentally sound technologies and assessing their impact on reducing plastic pollution

9. To identify capacity building and training needs for each Member

- It is crucial to assess the capacity building and training requirements of each Member to effectively implement the agreement and address plastic pollution.

- This assessment can involve identifying gaps in technical expertise, institutional capacities, policy frameworks, and public awareness.

- Tailored capacity building programs should be developed to address these identified needs, providing training, knowledge sharing, and technical assistance to enhance the capabilities of all stakeholders.

- Examples of areas for capacity building and training:
  
  o Capacity building programs can be designed to enhance waste management capabilities, improve national monitoring and enforcement mechanisms, and strengthen policy development skills
  o Training initiatives can target different stakeholders, including government officials, waste management professionals, educators, and community leaders, to build a comprehensive network of skilled individuals working towards plastic pollution reduction

- Awareness raising, education, and information exchange regarding plastic pollution, plastic alternatives, sustainable management of plastic products (including end-of-life management), and the benefits of a
circular economy in terrestrial environment need to be considered.

- It is crucial to develop strategies to raise awareness among different stakeholder groups and disseminate technical knowledge on plastic pollution and sustainable management, and integrate these concepts into advisory services, education, capacity building, and various initiatives promoting environmental, social and governance strategies in the private sector.

- Capacity building initiatives should also ensure gender equality and inclusivity of youth, indigenous communities, minorities, and vulnerable groups.