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:**

1. **By 15 August 2023** for written submissions from observer organizations.
2. **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:

UN Environment Assembly resolution 5/14 mandates the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) in its discussions towards a new international legally binding instrument to consider the full scope of the plastic lifecycle, including land-based and marine plastic pollution as well as microplastics. New Zealand supports this mandated scope. Specifically, New Zealand would like to see the development of an instrument that establishes an effective global regime to reduce plastic waste and eliminate plastic pollution on a global scale, covering the full lifecycle of plastics, including:

- addressing issues from the extraction of raw materials through to disposal and pollution impacts on ecosystems

- the development of solutions to the sources and drivers of plastics entering the environment, which could include innovation, redesign of products, services and systems to avoid unnecessary use of plastics and enable plastic reuse and repair, and research into the role of alternative materials

- plastic products (i.e. not limited to packaging)

- plastics as a material: long chain/high molecular mass polymers and associated additives.

New Zealand supports referring to the ‘lifespan’ of plastics, instead of the ‘lifecycle’, to avoid confusion with lifecycle approaches and analysis, and the circular economy.

There is a range of international rules that create obligations to manage certain types of plastic in an environmentally sound manner. However, a variety of plastics do not fall within the scope of these rules
and are therefore not covered by the obligations to manage waste in an environmentally sound manner. The plastics treaty is an opportunity to capture all plastics within scope of proposed measures.

Refer to New Zealand Submission Template B (1) regarding definition of plastics which is intricately linked to the scope of the instrument.

Explanatory Text:

2. Principles

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

Proposed principles:
New Zealand supports the inclusion of the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in their entirety as stated in UNEA resolution 5/14.

We are also supportive of the inclusion of other established principles and approaches, including, inter alia:

- A full life cycle approach for resources, materials and products, which seeks to address issues from the extraction of raw materials through to disposal and pollution impacts;
- A waste hierarchy approach that seeks to avoid generating plastic waste in the first place;
- A circular economy approach that designs out waste and pollution; keeps products and materials in use for as long as possible; and regenerates natural systems;
- A One Health approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimise the health of people, animals and ecosystems; recognizing that the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants and the wider environment (including ecosystems) are closely linked and interdependent;
- An ecosystem approach that recognizes the need for the integrated management of land, water and living resources, which promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way;
- Approaches that use the relevant traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples, where available;
- An approach that respects, promotes and considers respective obligations, as applicable, relating to the rights of Indigenous Peoples; and
- An approach that fully recognises the special circumstances of small island developing States and of least developed countries.

Explanatory Text:

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:**

**Explanatory Text:**

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