Call for written submissions – Proposed response template on the potential options for elements towards an international legally binding instrument

On 9 December 2022, the Executive Secretary of the INC Plastic Pollution Secretariat sent a notification inviting written submissions from members of the committee and from observers. The template below is intended to provide guidance to members of the committee and observers in structuring the written submissions.

As requested by INC-1, written submissions will inform the secretariat in the preparation of a document with potential options for elements towards an international legally binding instrument, for consideration at the second session of the INC, without in any way prejudging what the committee might decide regarding the structure and provisions of the instrument. The document is to be based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastics as called for by UNEA resolution 5/14, including identifying the objective, substantive provisions including core obligations, control measures, and voluntary approaches, implementation measures, and means of implementation.

The template below is meant to assist Members and Observers to prepare their written submission as a guide. A number of documents prepared for INC-1 are of relevance, notably 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’.

The template is divided into three sections:

I. Substantive elements

II. Implementation elements

III. Additional input

All written submissions must be sent to unep-incplastic.secretariat@un.org. The statements received will be compiled and made available the INC webpage.

Please note that it is not required for all fields to be answered in the template for submission.

Deadline for submissions:

• 6 January 2023 for written submissions from observers.
• 10 February 2023 for written submissions from Members of the Committee.
# TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of country (for Members of the committee)</th>
<th>Australia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of organization (for observers to the committee)</td>
<td>No Balloon Release Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact person and contact information for the submission</td>
<td>Karen Joynes <a href="mailto:noballoonrelease@gmail.com">noballoonrelease@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>20 December 2022</td>
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</tbody>
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## I. Substantive elements

### 1. Objective(s)

**a) What objective(s) could be set out in the instrument?**

To eliminate the environmental impact of released balloons, and of mylar/foil balloons.

### 2. Core obligations, control measures and voluntary approaches

**a) What core obligations, control measures and voluntary approaches would provide a comprehensive approach to addressing plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, throughout the full life cycle in line with the future objective(s) of the instrument?**

1. Countries to ban the sale and use of helium for inflating balloons, to stop releases at the source. An added measure would be to ban the release of balloons.
2. Countries to ban the importation, sale and use of mylar/foil balloons.
3. A global ban on the manufacture of these single use, frivolous and wasteful plastic items
4. Gas supply companies banned from selling helium for inflating balloons.
5. Helium balloon kits banned from being manufactured.
II. Implementation elements

1. Implementation measures

   a) How to ensure implementation of the instrument at the national level (e.g. role national action plans contribute to meeting the objectives and obligations of the instrument?)
   b) How to ensure effectiveness of the instrument and have efficient national reporting?
   c) Please provide any other relevant proposals or priorities here on implementation measures (for example for scientific and technical cooperation and coordination as well as compliance).

| 1. Embargo on the importation of helium balloon kits. |
| 2. Embargo on the importation of mylar/foil balloons |
| 3. Banning the sale and use of helium for inflating balloons. |
Effectiveness: more rangers or “environmental police”.
Measured by lack of balloons being found in dead wildlife and marine debris collections.

2. Means of Implementation

With respect to means of implementation, document UNEP/PP/INC.1/5 covers the following elements: capacity-building, technical assistance, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and financial assistance.

a) What measures will be required to support the implementation of the instrument?

Not a great deal is required. Seychelles has banned the importation of balloons so it could be done globally. Scarce helium is required for medical, scientific and industrial uses so a ban on its use to inflate balloons should have widespread support.
III. Additional input

Please provide any other relevant proposals or priorities here (for example introductory elements; awareness-raising, education and exchange of information; research; stakeholder engagement; institutional arrangements and final provisions).

A great deal of awareness and education is already happening around the planet - all that is needed is government legislation. E.g. [https://internationalwasteplatform.org/poster-say-no-to-balloons/?fbclid=IwAR0OrMxnqfPCUftGpyBDMqH_S4diO-uDnE50pPqVgyOU2VMwkvqn-RhjC0w](https://internationalwasteplatform.org/poster-say-no-to-balloons/?fbclid=IwAR0OrMxnqfPCUftGpyBDMqH_S4diO-uDnE50pPqVgyOU2VMwkvqn-RhjC0w)