OAPEC
Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries

PART A Call for written submissions: on the potential options for elements towards an international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution

OAPEC Secretariat
Technical Affairs
October 2023
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:**

I.  **By 15 August 2023** for written submissions from observer organizations.

II. **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:**

It is critical that the future instrument focuses on the sustainable production and consumption of multi-use plastics in the context of circularity. Such an approach would encourage the achievement of sustainable development by the Parties.

In order to support the achievement of sustainable development, including the SDGs, the instrument should include:

- Establishing local legislation and laws, and setting special goals for dealing with plastic waste, and its safe disposal, according to the country's circumstances and coping with the international concept.
- Standardization of national legal frameworks to specifically address the issue of illegal trade, transport, storage, burning, mislabeling, recycling of contaminated/untreated plastics, and unauthorized disposal of plastic waste on land and at sea.
- Developing infrastructure and related facilities for the effective treatment of plastic waste, within the circular economy, in a way that guarantees sustainable development in the country.
- Encouraging investment to expand the development of plastic waste recycling projects and use it as a fuel in power plants and energy-intensive industries, where plastic waste comes in third place after natural gas and crude oil in terms of energy enthalpy.
- Searching for innovative solutions to benefit from plastic waste in oil refineries and petrochemical complexes.

**Explanatory Text:**
Make sure the instrument is realistic. It should take into account providing technical and financial assistance to developing countries, which lack the necessary capabilities, to be able to cope with the obligations of the instrument.

The need to encourage developed countries the exchange experiences and technologies with developed countries, in a way that ensures the achievement of the desired goals of all countries signatories to the document.

Discussing financing and assistance mechanisms for the poorest countries. The document should avoid commitments that do not take into account the situation of developing countries that lack the necessary technical and financial capabilities. Importance of gradual implementation of the instrument within a medium-term plan to achieve the required goals.

The need to encourage scientific research and technological development to solve plastic waste problems, including circular solutions.

2. Principles

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

Proposed principles:
1. Preparing inclusive and comprehensive maps of plastic waste pool areas.
2. The contribution of social associations in activating the plastic waste management system, and participating in it.
3. Founding companies specialized in the field of plastic waste management.
4. Increase separation strategies from the source.
5. Approval of incentives to encourage civil society more cooperate in the system of collecting and separating plastic waste.
6. Promoting scientific efforts and innovations aimed at improving the environmental situation resulting from plastic waste.
7. encourage scientific research activities to develop better designs for plastic products with the aim of increasing the number of times of reuse and recycling, increasing durability or rigidity, producing products with the ability to degrade, and other possible measures.
8. Enhancing international cooperation and building international alliances in this field in cooperation with universities, governmental and private research institutes, and industrial companies, to take advantage of the integration of scientific capabilities available in universities, research, and industrial centers.
9. Increasing interest in human and scientific cadres working in the fields and activities of scientific research and development.

Explanatory Text:
The issue of plastic waste is an environmental and societal issue, and awareness programs aiming to teach the culture of safe waste handling must be taken into account within a disciplined government plan to ensure its safe disposal, and in accordance with modern trends, with the necessity of establishing necessary and binding laws, frameworks, and legislation.

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:

The treaty's decision-making mechanism must be approved unanimously, not by a majority of votes, as this treaty is one of the largest and most complex treaties that has a direct impact on the economies of industrialized countries.

Explanatory Text:

The decision-making mechanism must be approved unanimously