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:

Explanatory Text:

2. Principles

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

Proposed principles:

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:

We believe, in principle, the consumer’s right to informed choice should be respected.
➢ There should be a legal labeling requirement for products containing microplastics (e.g. cosmetics and personal care products.)
➢ Any harmful chemicals contained in the final plastic products should be printed on the item as a part of the labeling requirement.
➢ We recognize that abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) is posing a serious threat to marine biodiversity and sustainable use of fishery resources, as well as maritime safety. Therefore, efforts to promote seafood traceability should be strengthened, and if a seafood product is harvested or aquacultured in such a way that risk of ALDFG is minimized, it should be labeled on the product.

Explanatory Text:
On page 14 C.1.(e) of UNEP/PP/INC.2/4, various market-based approaches are listed, but informed consumer choice is not mentioned. However, informed consumer choice can be a powerful driver to reduce or eliminate problematic plastic products from the market. In the status quo, it is difficult for consumers to make responsible choices because not enough information is available. For example, if the product contains any microplastics or harmful chemical substances. Similarly, in order to economically incentivize reduction of ALDFG, consumers should know if the ADLFG prevention measures, such as gear marking, recovery, and/or recycling programs are being implemented in the process of producing certain seafood products.