1. SCOPE

What is the proposed scope for the future?

-- The proposed scope for future is to make an across the board sweeping changes while dealing with all sorts of elements available on earth either in terms of hydrocarbon-based polymers or others that may even be bio-based which however may have the slightest potential to give rise to non-biodegradable Plastic products/substances/micro-plastics etc causing serious harmful effects to human health and the fragile eco-system.

Explanatory Note: Any kind of conceivable substances existing on earth either naturally acquired or man-made that may ultimately
gets transformed to plastic/or plastic-like products or similar substances which have as much or even less potential to turn to harmful non-biodegradable wastages causing health hazards or environmental issues of serious concern must not be allowed under the treaty.

2. Principles

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

Proposed Principles: The principles must have distinctive clarity, optimum commitment and transparency in every step of Plastic life cycle so to draw bounden and moral support of the world communities just like ‘10 commandants’ to the emerging Plastic Treaty. The word ‘non-biodegradable’ be the catchword and co-terminus with plastic. The principle of sustained effort for equitable and matchable alternatives will be a sure fire way to innovation. So innovation should be the key word of the treaty and the prime principle.

The principles need to be as simple as to keep the world a healthy, safe, secured and a greener one where each living things and even the molecular ones must have the right to assert existence in a free and fair manner.

Explanatory Text: The future instrument must incorporate all the probable circumstances that might arise in due course of time. The implementation of the treaty must focus on areas of serious concern arising out of closure of large number of industrial /production units, concurrent displacement, relocation of staff,
re-employsments, training & skill enhancement, conversion of existing units to more sustainable and compliable ones with new technologies and adaptability.

3. Additional Consideration:

A. Potential scope of and guidance for national Action Plan (including optional and suggested elements):

- The NAP need to be crafted on the lines of the proposed global instrument converging on issues of deep concern which are evidence-based and hugely evalulative.

- Different panels with the interface of scientific, training & capacity building, legal and technical experts be constituted under the NAP to make it more robust and action-oriented. The panels with expertise shall guide in framing and course correcting the NAP from time to time in sync with the need of the hour.

- The target-setting be assessed considering the magnitude of plastic production, its demand, usages, plastics wastages, disposal and other domestic health-related and environmental issues.

- The NAP needs to incorporate the provision for disclosure requirement in regard to reduction, recycling and phasing out of plastic either quarterly/half yearly and annually.
-Even a parliamentary panel under the NAP to be headed by the head of the state be constituted with the active proponents of climate action issues to make it more potent and effective..

-The National reporting is of vital concern which will throw light on gamut of issues regarding reduction, reuse and recycle of plastic. The country offices of UNEP can gather information and with a simple mechanism can well coordinate with the national government from time to time for collection, sharing and dissemination of information.

Additional Consideration:

B. To further consider how a potential financing mechanism could work (including a new standalone mechanism, a hybrid mechanism or an existing mechanism).

-Potential financing is a major issue for Developing and SIDS, but considering the fatality of plastic use and serious hazards, formation of a dedicated corpus fund may be suggested in each state rather than having to depend solely on others.

-A Small amount of levy or surcharge on incremental basis on fuel, energy, road use etc may be raised at the National level to contribute to the Corpus meant to defray cost of plastic elimination and in terms of awareness creation, reduction, reuse and recycling at local level.
- During national budget preparation, a fair amount of fund be set aside mandatorily under a head of account to deal with all the climatic issues including plastic pollution. For the developing and SIDS it will definitely lessen the financial burden on the nations.

-A small fraction from the budgetary heads of each Government department may also be set aside for corpus consolidation

-The recycling is a costly affair, so to recycle a stupendous amount of existing plastic of all forms in a safe and secured mode, huge man power planning and technology will be needed.

-Furthermore the plastic producers, retailers which need to phased out and phased down have to be taxed for a Global/national cause.

Additional Consideration:

C. To consider how other MEAs provide for monitoring and suggest best practices.

The basic aim of MEAs is to act collectively and ensure most effective cooperation with a full proof system of monitoring.

So their best /effective practices in respect of planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation may be replicated with necessary tweaks for fruitful results considering the
enormity of the growing plastic pollution. Consultation with the concerned MEAs (BRM etc) is strongly advised on how it addresses the multiple issues of vital concern.

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