

**Written submissions prior to INC-3 (part b)**  
**Potential Areas Identified by the Contact Groups**

Name of country (for Members of the committee)	-----
Name of organization (for observers to the committee)	<b>UNITAR</b>
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Date of submission	15 August, 2023
Potential area of possible intersessional work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To consider potential scope of and guidance for National Action Plans (including optional and/or suggested elements)</li> <li>• To identify capacity building and training needs for each Member</li> </ul>

**Input on the potential areas of intersessional work to inform the work of INC-3 (following the lists compiled by the co-facilitators of the two contact groups)**

<p>“To consider potential scope of and guidance for National Action Plans [including optional and/or suggested elements]”</p> <p><b>References</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Paragraphs 3 and 4 of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/14</li> <li>2. UNEP/PP/INC.2/4</li> <li>3. UNEP/PP/INC.2/5</li> <li>4. Co-facilitators’ summary of Contact Group 2</li> </ol> <p><b>UNITAR</b></p> <p>During the intersessional period, efforts could be focused on two elements of item 30 (UNEP/PP/INC.2/4):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Definition of common elements and minimum content of NAPs</li> <li>2) Development of a Harmonized guidance on NAPs</li> </ol> <p>Our proposal is to consider the creation of a Small Intersessional Working Group (SIWG) that could:</p>
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1. **Organize sessions** to promote the exchange of experiences and lessons learned from previous National Action/Implementation Plans in the context of chemicals and waste multilateral environmental agreements, such as Stockholm Convention National Implementation Plans (NIP), Minamata Initial Assessments (MIA), and SAICM Implementation Plans<sup>1</sup>. It must be noted that these sessions will serve to make all participants aware of studies already available, such as the gap analysis developed for the Stockholm NIP and reporting system and the recent development of an Integrated Electronic Toolkit.
2. Even if the content of the NAP/NIP will depend on the final text of the agreement, the SIWG will have the mandate to **draft a document** with a proposed structure/elements for a NAP/NIP that will also include inputs for a NIP/NAP development guidance and other guidance tools and resources<sup>2</sup> to be evaluated during the next INC. This document could also identify the best approaches and mechanisms for data submission, management, evaluation, and dissemination.

UNITAR<sup>3</sup> and partners (for example, members of the IOMC) with extended experience in supporting countries during the development of NIPs/NAPs could have a role in leading or supporting the activities of this SIWG.

The work of this project will also inform item "9. To identify capacity building and training needs for each Member," since it will highlight future needs such as materials for training and dissemination, expert advice for the development and technical review of the NAP/NIP, capacity building activities (workshops, courses), databases, and search tools.

**"To identify capacity building and training needs for each Member."**

We consider that it is important to keep in mind that the negotiation of such an agreement is a demanding process for countries, organizations, and individuals, which requires solid diplomatic and technical knowledge in different areas. In this regard, we propose that training activities should be conducted during the intersessional period. These activities will also inform the drafting process of the agreement in terms of the identification of potential capacity-building and training needs during its implementation. The UNITAR Programme on Plastics Training and Research could provide diplomacy and negotiation skills to country groups as they engage with the INC process.

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<sup>1</sup> Also related to items 3 and 4 of the list, *"To identify current provisions within existing MEAs [and other instruments] on cooperation and coordination that could be considered"* and *"To consider how other MEAs provide for monitoring, and suggest best practice."*

<sup>2</sup> Other resources could include: quick guidance materials and templates.

<sup>3</sup> UNITAR portfolio: <https://unitar.org/sustainable-development-goals/planet/our-portfolio>