Zero Waste Europe submission: 
Part B - Scope and Principles

TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSIONS (part b)

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<tr>
<th>Name of organization</th>
<th>Zero Waste Europe</th>
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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)

Contact group 1, point 1. Information on definitions of, e.g. plastics, microplastics, circularity

The following working definitions may be helpful for negotiators to discuss potential control measures and avoid both ambiguity in interpretation and loopholes:

- **Plastic pollution** includes the impacts on human health and environment of plastic production, use, reuse, recycling and disposal.

- **Plastic life cycle** must be defined based on the UNEP/PP/INC.1/7 (as outlined under Annex II of the options paper)

- **Reuse** (of packaging) is a comprehensive system designed for multiple circulations of an item of specifically designed reusable packaging which remains in the ownership of the reuse system and is loaned to the consumer. Notes: 
  > A broader definition of reuse, going beyond packaging, should also be discussed.
> Distinctive and enforceable definitions for reuse and refill will be needed in order to avoid these terms are interchangeably used or misused. When it comes to packaging, refill is the action of using a container that is owned by the consumer and is either refilled in the shop or refilled at home (in both cases the container is in fact not packaging but a product, and hence it should be considered as packaging waste prevention, and not packaging reuse). Packaging reuse is the action of using a container that is an asset owned by the producer or a third party and/or collected, washed and refilled by a third party. See [here](#) for more information.

**Contact group 1, point 2. Information on criteria, also considering different applications and sectoral requirements, including c) Design e.g. for circularity, reuse**

Below we comment on the need for the intersessional work to focus on **REUSE-RELATED MEASURES:**

- **Consider reuse targets and baselines**, with an initial focus on high impact categories where reuse systems are already in place, such as for packaging. When it comes to the latter more specifically, the intersessional work should focus the discussion on:
  - setting an overall reuse target of 50% by 2030 for all plastic packaging placed on the market, thus sending a strong signal to all market sectors to kick-start the transition.
  - setting sector-specific reuse targets or dedicated targets per packaging type (e.g. for the beverage, HORECA, retailer sector).
  - distinguishing between reuse and reduction/refill targets (the same applies to their definitions, see [here](#) + previous section)

- **Discuss setting general parameters for standardizing packaging design** and *return incentives* across brands and companies in a way that enables sharing of container collection points, washing facilities, and logistics, including a minimum number of cycles (re-uses), labeling, digital tags (QR codes), reuse symbols, among other product design requirements. Further, minimum (eco)design requirements for reusable and toxic-free products should also be discussed.

- **Adopting general and sectoral guidelines for reduction and reuse.** Such guidelines should encourage the use of economic incentives for reuse beyond beverage packaging. It will also be needed to define essential requirements for pool systems and provide guidelines on their set-up and operation.

- **Ensuring proper implementation**, including clarifying the role of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). EPR should be a tool to transition away from single-use packaging and products, as opposed to a way to enshrine plastic waste into the current system. Concretely this means that:
  - EPR schemes should include full-cost coverage, ecomodulation linked to achieving reduction and reuse targets, and which take into account the progressive phase-out of single-use plastic.
  - EPR should be applied to any type of plastic product or packaging: packaging, textiles, sanitary items, furniture, electronics, etc.
- Identifying other options for the financing of reuse systems and their scale up.