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**Intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop  
an international legally binding instrument on plastic  
pollution, including in the marine environment  
First session**

Punta del Este, Uruguay, 28 November–2 December 2022  
Item 4 of the provisional agenda\*

**Preparation of an international legally binding instrument on  
plastic pollution, including in the marine environment**

## **Existing information that might assist policymakers**

### **Note by the secretariat**

1. Pursuant to paragraph 5 of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/14 of 2 March 2022, entitled “End plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument”, an ad hoc open-ended working group met in Dakar from 30 May to 1 June 2022 to prepare for the work of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. The open-ended working group agreed on a list of documents that the secretariat would provide to the intergovernmental negotiating committee at its first session. Among other things, the secretariat was requested to provide a listing of existing information for policymakers, building on the contents of document UNEP/PP/OEWG/1/INF/3. The document annexed to the present note has been prepared in response to that request.
2. The document provides a non-exhaustive listing of categorized information, building on document UNEP/PP/OEWG/1/INF/3 and drawing from submissions received in connection with the intergovernmental negotiating committee process, including the ad hoc open-ended working group meeting,<sup>1</sup> as well as desk research. It also outlines how to access relevant information through the Global Partnership on Marine Litter digital platform.<sup>2</sup>
3. The intergovernmental negotiating committee may wish to consider the information provided in the present note in its deliberations.

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\* UNEP/PP/INC.1/1.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unep.org/events/unep-event/Intergovernmental-Negotiating-Committee-end-plastic-pollution>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://digital.gpmarinelitter.org/>.

## Annex

### Existing information that might assist policymakers

1. **There is a large amount of existing information on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, that is relevant to policymakers.** A non-exhaustive list of recent sources of information (2020 onwards), as well as information submitted in connection with the intergovernmental negotiating committee process, is presented in the table below, categorized by topic.<sup>1</sup> All the sources listed can be accessed via the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) digital platform.

#### Recent sources of information on plastic pollution

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Resource</i>
Analyses and assessments	FAO – “Global Assessment of Soil Pollution”
	GESAMP – “Sea-Based Sources of Marine Litter” (No. 108)
	GESAMP – “Sources, Fate and Effects of Microplastics in the Marine Environment: A Global Assessment” (Nos. 90 and 93)
	OECD – “A Chemicals Perspective on Designing with Sustainable Plastics: Goals, Considerations and Trade-Offs”
	OECD – “Modulated Fees for Extended Producer Responsibility Schemes”
	OECD – “Preventing Single-Use Plastic Waste: Implications of Different Policy Approaches”
	OECD – “The Cost of Preventing Ocean Plastic Pollution”
	UNEP – “Addressing Single-Use Plastic Products Pollution Using a Life-Cycle Approach”
	UNEP – “From Pollution to Solution: A Global Assessment of Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution”
	UNIDO – “Addressing the Challenge of Marine Plastic Litter Using Circular Economy Methods: Relevant Considerations”
	UNIDO – National plastic value chain studies for various countries
	United Nations – “Addressing Marine Litter and Microplastics: UN System-Wide Contributions – A Synthesis Report by the United Nations Environment Management Group”
	World Bank – “Where Is the Value in the Chain? Pathways Out of Plastic Pollution”
Guidelines	GESAMP – “Guidelines for the Monitoring and Assessment of Plastic Litter in the Ocean” (No. 99)
	Ministry of the Environment, Japan – “Guidelines for Harmonizing Ocean Surface Microplastics Monitoring Methods, version 1.1, June 2020”
	OECD – “Extended Producer Responsibility: Updated Guidance for Efficient Waste Management”
	Stockholm Environment Institute – “Reducing Plastic Pollution: Campaigns That Work”
	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency – “Next Steps: Tackling Plastic Litter – A Nudging Strategy for Reducing Consumption of Single-Use Disposable Cups”
	UNEP and Consumers International – ““Can I Recycle This?” A Global Mapping and Assessment of Standards, Labels and Claims on Plastic Packaging”
	UNEP – Law and Environment Assistance Platform Plastics Toolkit: “Legislative Development Guide”
	UNEP – “National Guidance for Plastic Pollution Hotspotting and Shaping Action – Introduction Report”
	UNEP – “Sustainable Public Procurement of Plastics”

<sup>1</sup> Additional information is provided in document UNEP/PP/INC.1/INF/4.

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Resource</i>
Action plans	International Maritime Organization – “Action Plan to Address Marine Plastic Litter from Ships”
	“Marine Litter Action Plan for the Northeast Pacific 2022–2026”
Capacity development tools	Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions – “Plastic Waste and the Basel Convention”
	UNEP – “Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution: Legal Frameworks”
Outlooks	International Resource Panel – “Policy Options to Eliminate Additional Marine Plastic Litter by 2050 under the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision”
	OECD – “Global Plastics Outlook: Economic Drivers, Environmental Impacts and Policy Options”
	OECD – “Global Plastics Outlook: Policy Scenarios to 2060”
	Pew Charitable Trust – “Breaking the Plastic Wave: A Comprehensive Assessment of Pathways towards Stopping Ocean Plastic Pollution”
	SYSTEMIQ – “Reshaping Plastics: Pathways to a Circular, Climate-Neutral Plastics System in Europe”
Publications specifically on the intergovernmental negotiating committee process	CIEL – “Comparison Table on the Rules of Procedures to Negotiate a Plastics Treaty”
	CIEL – “Meaningful Public Participation in a COVID-19 World: Guiding Questions for Organizing International Negotiating and Meeting Spaces”
	CIEL – “Towards a Global Treaty to End Plastic Pollution: Ensuring Meaningful and Effective Stakeholder Involvement in the Intergovernmental Environmental Negotiations”
	CIEL – “Toward a New Instrument Addressing the Full Life Cycle of Plastics: Overview of the Typology of International Legal Instruments”
	EIA – “Convention on Plastic Pollution: Essential Elements” (series of thematic briefings on the topics of finance, reporting and monitoring, fishing gear and production)
	EIA – “Convention on Plastic Pollution: Toward a New Global Agreement to Address Plastic Pollution”
	EIA – “Initial Considerations for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the UNEA Resolution 5/14 to End Plastic Pollution: Towards an International Legally Binding Instrument”
	ICC – “Preliminary Business Recommendations for an Ambitious UN Instrument to End Plastic Pollution”
	IPEN – “How the Resolution ‘End plastic pollution: Towards an international legally binding instrument’ Relates to Chemicals and Health”
	IPEN – “IPEN Plastics Treaty Platform: Protecting Human Health and the Environment from Toxic Chemicals”
	IPEN – “Three Key Principles for a Plastics Treaty: IPEN Quick Views for Dakar OEWG Meeting”
	Nordic Council of Ministers – “International Sustainability Criteria for Plastic Products in a Global Agreement on Plastic Pollution”

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Resource</i>	
Sectoral approaches	Fishing	CIEL – “Convention on Plastic Pollution: Essential Elements: Fishing Gear”
		FAO – “Legal Aspects of Abandoned, Lost or Otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear”
		FAO – “Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear”
	Trade	OECD – “International Trade and Circular Economy: Policy Alignment”
		OECD – “Monitoring Trade in Plastic Waste and Scrap”
		OECD – “The Consequences of a More Resource Efficient and Circular Economy for International Trade Patterns: A Modelling Assessment”
		UNCTAD – “Global Trade in Plastics: Insights from the First Life-Cycle Trade Database”
		WTO – “Ministerial Statement on Plastic Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastics Trade” (WT/MIN(22)/12)
		WTO – “Plastics Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastics Trade”
	Agriculture	CIEL – “Sowing the Plastic Planet: How Microplastics in Agrochemicals Are Affecting Our Soils, Our Food, and Our Future”
		FAO – “Assessment of Agricultural Plastics and Their Sustainability: A Call for Action”
	Tourism	UNEP – “Rethinking Single-Use Plastic Products in Travel and Tourism: Impacts, Management Practices and Recommendations”
		UNWTO – “Tools and Resources for Implementing the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative”
	Packaging	Ellen MacArthur Foundation and UNEP – “The Global Commitment 2021 Progress Report”
		FAO – “Thinking about the Future of Food Safety: A Foresight Report”
	Textiles	OECD – “Policies to Reduce Microplastics Pollution in Water: Focus on Textiles and Tyres”
		UNEP – “Sustainability and Circularity in the Textile Value Chain: Global Stocktaking”

*Abbreviations:* CIEL – Center for International Environmental Law; COVID-19 – coronavirus disease 2019; EIA – Environmental Investigation Agency; FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; GESAMP – Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection; ICC – International Chamber of Commerce; IPEN – International Pollutants Elimination Network; LEAP – Law and Environment Assistance Platform; OECD – Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; OEWG – open-ended working group; UN – United Nations; UNCTAD – United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; UNEA – United Nations Environment Assembly; UNEP – United Nations Environment Programme; UNIDO – United Nations Industrial Development Organization; UNWTO – World Tourism Organization; WTO – World Trade Organization.

2. **The items listed above, as well as other sources of relevant information for policymakers, including the reports and guidance documents listed in document UNEP/PP/OEWG/1/INF/3, can be found among the resources on the GPML digital platform.** The multi-stakeholder open data platform compiles and crowdsources various types of information, integrates data and connects stakeholders to guide action on tackling plastic pollution and marine litter. The platform feeds into the World Environment Situation Room<sup>2</sup> and currently contains more than 2,000 resources and 300 data levels, including technical resources, initiatives, policies, financing resources, technologies and action plans.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> <https://wesr.unep.org/>.

<sup>3</sup> The platform is being developed using a phased consultative approach. Data and information are compiled, shared and used in coordination with various stakeholders and partners.

3. **The GPML digital platform facilitates detailed searches of existing information through a tagging system.** Such tags refer to the relevant operative paragraphs and subparagraphs of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/14, as well as life-cycle stages, sectors and pathways from source to sea. This approach allows for a dynamic, up-to-date listing of information through a “living” knowledge resource where information is shared as presented by relevant stakeholders on a continuous basis.

4. **Information document UNEP/PP/INC.1/INF/4 supplements the present note** with further details and information from various stakeholders that might assist policymakers.

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