

## WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

Name of country (For Members of the committee)	Nepal
Name of organization (For observers to the committee)	
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### I. Substantive elements

#### 1. Objective(s)

a) *What objective(s) could be set out in the instrument?*

##### **Proposed Objective:**

- Reduction of plastic wastes in the mountain and water bodies.
- Take back the plastic wastes released in the environment.
- Practice waste segregation at source.

##### **Explanatory Text:**

There is an increasing plastic wastes in the mountain environment especially due to the trekking and mountaineering activities leaving the plastic wastes in the cold mountains. Unmanaged waste disposal activities release the plastic wastes in the rivers and lakes.

Plastic wastes released in the environment will make the environmental and health impacts. Plastics based chemical pollution and micro-plastics are contaminating the environment. Therefore, it is necessary to take back the waste released in environment, reusing or recycling or safe disposal or destruction is necessary.

Waste segregation at source makes it easier to collect plastic wastes for reusing and recycling.

#### 2. Core obligations, control measures and voluntary approaches

a) *What core obligations, control measures and voluntary approaches would provide a comprehensive approach to addressing plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, throughout the full life cycle in line with the future objective(s) of the instrument?*

*Obligations:*

- Returning the plastic items by tourists, guides, mountaineering agencies and government bodies.
- Community based regulatory mechanism for plastic waste disposal in water bodies.
- Mandatory segregation of plastic wastes in different stages of waste management.

*Control measures:*

- Establishing the pollution control fund at local government level and contributing on that fund based on the quantity of plastic wastes not returned.
- Utilizing the pollution control fund on waste take back to reuse and recycle.
- Programmatic approach of government for waste collection from the high mountain and bring it down for management. For example, Government of Nepal (Nepal Army as a lead agency) is involved in mountain cleaning campaign. Waste is collected from mountains including Mount Everest and handed over to the local bodies / committee and recycling agencies.
- Promotion of recycling industries through the formulation of policy.
- Promotion of alternatives of plastic bags such as biodegradable bags.
- Formulation of appropriate standards for plastic bags and other plastic products. For example, 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2021 Nepal has banned the production, import, sale and use of plastic bags and other plastics with the thickness less than 40 micron.
- Sustainable management of plastics and plastic wastes.

*Voluntary approaches:*

- Involvement of voluntary organizations for the waste take back from the environment.
- Bringing back the wastes already deposited in the mountain by the mountain climber.

## **II. Implementation elements**

### **1. Implementation measures**

- a) How to ensure implementation of the instrument at the national level (e.g., role national action plans contribute to meeting the objectives and obligations of the instrument?)*
- b) How to ensure effectiveness of the instrument and have efficient national reporting?*
- c) Please provide any other relevant proposals or priorities here on implementation measures (for example for scientific and technical cooperation and coordination as well as compliance).*

a) Ensuring the implementation of the instrument at the national level requires formulation of National Action Plan on Plastic Management.

b) Capacity building to the policy making body and monitoring agency is necessary to ensure effectiveness of the instrument.

c) Establishing the Monitoring mechanism in all levels of government.

c) National Action Plan on Plastic Management should consider for the formation of central level task force (including the stakeholders) for the effective plastic management and policy guidance. Technical cooperation and coordination is required for the take back the plastic wastes released in the environment and reusing or recycling or safe disposal or safe destruction of plastic wastes especially in local government.

d) Policy adjustment to keep the water bodies plastic free.

## 2. Means of Implementation

With respect to means of implementation, document UNEP/PP/INC.1/5 covers the following elements: capacity-building, technical assistance, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and financial assistance.

a) *What measures will be required to support the implementation of the instrument?*

- Adequate policy and legal instruments in all levels of government.
- Capacity-building, technical assistance, technology transfer.
- Appropriate awareness programs at different levels: Policy making body, Implementing agency, Users.
- Periodic researches on impacts and alternatives.

## III. Additional input

Please provide any other relevant proposals or priorities here (for example introductory elements; awareness-raising, education and exchange of information; research; stakeholder engagement; institutional arrangements and final provisions).

- Awareness-raising, education and exchange of information, research, stakeholder engagement is required for the plastic waste reduction and taking back the wastes released in the environment.
  - Snow-capped mountains which are the hot-spot for the mountaineering are gradually receiving the wastes and thus there is a increased risk for the pollution of mountain environment from the plastic pollution. International commitment is necessary to address the issue of plastic pollution in the snow-capped mountains as these pristine environments get the wastes from the tourists representing various countries.
  - National campaign to make the water bodies free form the plastic wastes.
  - Application of segregation measures in all municipalities and technology development for waste management.
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