Call for written submissions – Proposed response template on the potential options for elements towards an international legally binding instrument

On 9 December 2022, the Executive Secretary of the INC Plastic Pollution Secretariat sent a notification inviting written submissions from members of the committee and from observers. The template below is intended to provide guidance to members of the committee and observers in structuring the written submissions.

As requested by INC-1, written submissions will inform the secretariat in the preparation of a document with potential options for elements towards an international legally binding instrument, for consideration at the second session of the INC, without in any way prejudging what the committee might decide regarding the structure and provisions of the instrument. The document is to be based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastics as called for by UNEA resolution 5/14, including identifying the objective, substantive provisions including core obligations, control measures, and voluntary approaches, implementation measures, and means of implementation.

The template below is meant to assist Members and Observers to prepare their written submission as a guide. A number of documents prepared for INC-1 are of relevance, notably UNEP/PP/INC.1/5 on 'Potential elements, based on provisions in paragraphs 3 and 4 of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/14, including key concepts, procedures and mechanisms of legally binding multilateral agreements that may be relevant to furthering implementation and compliance under the future international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment'.

The template is divided into three sections:

I. Substantive elements
II. Implementation elements
III. Additional input

All written submissions must be sent to unep-incplastic.secretariat@un.org. The statements received will be compiled and made available the INC webpage.

Please note that it is not required for all fields to be answered in the template for submission.

Deadline for submissions:

- 6 January 2023 for written submissions from observers.
- 10 February 2023 for written submissions from Members of the Committee.

TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSIONS

Name of country (for Members of the committee)	**Republic of Mauritius**
Name of organization (for observers to the committee)	
Contact person and contact information for the submission	**Dr R.K. Foolmaun, Divisional Environment Officer, Plastic Management Division, Department of Environment Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change Email: rfoolmaun@govmu.org Tel: +230 2036200**
Date	**11 January 2023**

I. Substantive elements

1. Objective(s)

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

Proposed Objectives:

- **To end plastic pollution by progressively eliminating plastics that are causing harm to the terrestrial & marine ecosystems and substituting these plastic products with eco-friendly alternatives.**
- **Promote the 3Rs concept that is reducing, reusing and recycling of plastics.**
- **Shift from a linear to a circular economy for plastics.**
- **No trans-boundary plastic wastes dumping policy.**

Explanatory Text:

Through Global effort, it would be important to work towards eliminating plastics that are harming both the terrestrial and marine plastic pollution through the introduction of appropriate mechanisms to control the production and consumptions of plastics. Prior to eliminating the plastic products, available and affordable ecofriendly alternatives should be available as substitute.

Countries should have financial and technological means to manage their plastic waste generated through recycling or the adoption of a circular economy.

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?

A. Core Obligation:

1. **Definitions of key terms (for e.g., plastics, micro-plastics, biodegradable plastics, etc)**
2. **National Action Plan/ Roadmap**
3. **Research and Development**
4. **Technical /Scientific Assessment Panels that would advise on life cycle approaches, best technologies, appropriate economic instruments, standards/ guidelines/ labelling, transboundary control mechanisms.**
5. **Principles (including Polluter Pays Principle, equity)**
6. **Circular Economy**
7. **Policies (e.g. No Plastic dumping policies)**
8. **Access to Technology**
9. **Capacity building**
10. **Funding Mechanisms**
11. **Sensitisation and awareness**
12. **Gender equality**
13. **Measurable targets (Measurement, Reporting and Verification)**

B. Proposed Control Measures:

1. **Development and adoption of a Protocol which defines a schedule for reducing or eliminating the use of plastics.**
2. **Reporting and verification Mechanism**

C. Voluntary approaches:

1. **Online platform for knowledge and experience sharing.**
2. **Cleanup campaigns.**

II. Implementation elements

1. Implementation measures

a) How to ensure implementation of the instrument at the national level (eg. 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) At the national level:

1. **Provide guidelines for national reporting**
2. **National Action Plan/ strategies.**

b) Reporting timeline.

c) Regional cooperation and platform on technology, Scientific knowledge and data sharing.

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?

- **Access and support to sustainable technologies**
- **Provision of funding**
- **Facilitated access/direct access to funding**
- **Capacity Building.**
- **Support the domestication of relevant policies and programs.**

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).

- **United Nations bodies to conduct training on life cycle analysis of plastic, eco-friendly alternatives such as biodegradable/compostable plastics and eco-labelling**