



**High Commission and Permanent Mission
To The United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNEP & UNHABITAT)
Of The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka**

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The Permanent Representative of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi (UNEP) presents its compliments to the United Nations Environment Programme and, has the honor to attach Written Submission on the potential options for elements towards an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution including marine environment.

The Permanent Representative of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) the assurances of its highest consideration

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)



Nairobi, February 10, 2023

High Commission of the Democratic
Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
in Kenya

Also Accredited to

**Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of the Congo,
Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali,
Mauritania, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Togo and Uganda.**



Sri Lanka

Written submissions on the potential options for elements towards an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution including marine environment

Name of country (for Members of the committee)	Sri Lanka
Name of organization (for observers to the committee)	
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Date	07.02.2023

I. Substantive elements

1. Objective(s)

Proposed Objective:

Main Objective:

Eliminate plastic pollution in atmospheric, terrestrial and marine environments.

Sub Objectives:

Explanatory Text:

Considering the drive towards renewable energy and drop in fossil fuel usage, the tendency to increase in plastic production in future using fossil fuels needs to be considered and a control mechanism has to be established, as the developing countries do not have adequate waste disposal options, sustainable recyclable collection mechanisms and standard recycling facilities. This will lead to pollution of sensitive environments and irreversible damages to sensitive ecosystems.

The legally binding mechanism is essential to control transboundary movement through air and sea transport modes. The plastic waste flowing from several countries to island nations through sea currents have drastically increased. This adds an additional burden to the

2. Core obligations, control measures and voluntary approaches -
1. Achieve SDG 12 - Sustainable Production and Consumption in relation to plastics.
 2. Control transboundary movement of plastics through transportation modes (sea & air) and through sea currents to other countries.
 3. Decontamination of plastic contaminated sites (eg. Waste dump sites, marine environment etc) in an environmentally friendly manner.
 4. Ban toxic plastics consisting of toxic polymers, pigments, additives and phase out selected single use plastics and other problematic plastics considering the precautionary principle.
 5. Improve waste management in developing countries and promote residual plastic treatment technologies and assist establishment of such facilities in developing countries.
 6. Provision of global technical and financial assistance in disasters related to plastics (eg. Ship Disaster - Express – PEARL – Sri Lanka)
 7. Develop waste pickers into entrepreneurs in waste management and ensure their occupational health and safety.

developing countries, in waste management in an environmentally friendly manner.

Technical support and sustainable funding mechanisms to implement the National Action Plans are essential to improve in-country plastic waste management.

5. Improve waste management in developing countries and promote residual plastic treatment technologies and assist establishment of such facilities in developing countries.

2. Core obligations, control measures and voluntary approaches

Core obligations:

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2. Control transboundary movement of plastics through transportation modes (sea & air) and through sea currents to other countries.
3. Decontamination of plastic contaminated sites (eg. Waste dump sites, marine environment etc) in an environmentally friendly manner.
4. Ban toxic plastics consisting of toxic polymers, pigments, additives and phase out selected single use plastics and other problematic plastics considering the precautionary principle.
5. Improve waste management in developing countries and promote residual plastic treatment technologies and assist establishment of such facilities in developing countries.
6. Provision of global technical and financial assistance in disasters related to plastics (eg. Ship Disaster - Express – PEARL – Sri Lanka)
7. Develop waste pickers into entrepreneurs in waste management and ensure their occupational health and safety.
8. Develop and adhere to standards for plastic products and recycled products.
9. Lifecycle management of plastics in upstream, mid-stream and down stream.
10. Promote environmental friendly alternatives for plastics
11. Promote 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) and upcycling in plastic management.
12. Implement Polluter Pay Principle, (PPP) and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) to manage plastics.
13. Promote Lifecycle Assessment of Plastics
14. Promote research and take remedial measures to control micro and nano plastics leakage into the environment.
15. Provision of technical guidance and technology transfer for developing countries
16. Provision of financial assistance to ensure environmental equity.
17. Considering the impact of plastic pollution that has on climate change and loss of bio diversity, teaming up with relevant stakeholders and implementing programmes are essential.
18. Follow the format of specific conventions, rather than framework conventions.

II. Implementation elements

1. Implementation measures

- a) Carry out initial assessment to identify country specific needs in relation to INC and develop a National Action Plan on Plastic Waste Management based on the findings. Then it should be implemented and a monitoring mechanism should be developed to monitor the progress.
- b) National reporting can follow the same methodology practiced under international conventions, (eg. Minamata) initiating with reporting basic information at the beginning and moving on to more specific detailed information with time.
- c) In implementing the National Action Plans – Technical and financial assistance will be needed by the developing countries.

Means of Implementation

1. Provision of Technical Guidance/ Technology Transfer is essential for developing countries.
2. Human resource Development, Capacity Building and training is required to implement successful programmes.
3. Sustainable funding mechanism need to be established considering environmental equity.
4. Support for Infra- structure development for waste management and establishing standard recycling facilities is essential to minimize air pollution.
5. National and International Legal framework for management of plastics need to be established.

III. Additional input

Awareness creation for all segments of the community is essential in attitudinal change, in managing plastics and minimizing plastic pollution.

Further research is needed to find the impacts of micro and nano plastics on human health and environment, where a platform could be established for exchange of research findings globally.

Exchange of information on success stories, new technology, innovative approaches will be beneficial for all countries.

Stakeholder engagement is important in developing the legally binding instrument and implementing the plastic management activities.
