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 on 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.
I. Substantive elements

1. Objective(s)

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

   **Proposed Objective:** To protect human health and environment even marine environment

   **Explanatory Text:** Plastic has a great importance in our lives, as it enters many sectors of life. Therefore, plastic cannot overlook its impact on the environment, human health, economy and social life cannot be overlooked. Therefore, we have to take care of the plastic life cycle from A to Z.

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?

   Each country should have its own action plans to control plastic pollution depending on their national circumstances. The national plans should contain:

   **Core Obligations:**
   - Reduction in plastic pollution
   - Increase in the use of recycled plastics.
   - Collect and recycle plastic waste.
   - Make the plastic cycle sustainable through circular economy approach.
   - Ban single-use plastic

   **Control Measures:** - Conducting a comprehensive survey of the quantities of plastic in the country as
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a basic rule
- Monitoring the life cycle of plastics
- Knowing the quantities of plastic that are subject to recycling
- Introducing modern technology for use in recycling
- Using the recyclable materials in the manufacture of plastic materials
- Avoid landfill operations for plastic clubs
- Raise the capacity building of workers in the field of plastics in developing countries

Voluntary Approaches:
- Spreading awareness of the benefits of plastic reuse and recycle among people who works in plastic
- Doing workshops to young people for the harms of plastic pollution
- Support the science researches in plastic field in the country
- Granting industrialists great privileges for recycling and the use of modern methods
- Preventing children from working in the field of collecting plastic waste because of its effects on their health

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).

- Submission of updated periodic reports to combat plastic pollution at the national level
- Submit periodic reports on the amount of recycled plastic materials
- Submit periodic reports on the amount of plastic waste
- Identify areas affected by plastic pollution

These reports would enable the various countries to communicate with the Secretariat about the scientific and financial needs of each country in order to mitigate plastic pollution, and this matter would allow to provide technical, scientific and financial assistance to governments, factories and the workers in the field of plastic and keep the member states informed of the plastic life cycle in these countries That raises the opportunities to the countries to collaborate in terms of technology and financial assistance.
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?*

The reports sent by the Member States to the General Secretariat would keep the Secretariat abreast of the amount of plastic that was produced, used and recycled. Therefore, the Secretariat can provide financial assistance through the Global Environmental Facility or donor countries to countries that need assistance, and it can also raise the capacities of workers and supervisors in the plastics industry.

The text of the binding instrument must contain clear provisions for the obligation to send periodic reports by member states and to provide financial and technical assistance to developing countries.
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 and knowledge of the health and environmental risks of plastic pollution must be spread
Technology should be transferred to developing countries
- The knowledge of workers in the field of plastics must be increased
- Helping stakeholders to move to the modern technological path in the manufacture and recycling of plastics
- Financial assistance should be provided to developing countries to achieve the desired objective of this instrument