



**ASSOCIATION OF SOLIDARITY THROUGH  
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International

**SECOND SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE  
TO DEVELOP AN INTERNATIONAL LEGALLY BINDING INSTRUMENT ON PLASTIC  
POLLUTION**

**ASHIA'S WRITTEN SUBMISSION**

**29 May-2 June 2023, Paris**

## **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](mailto: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)	<b>CAMEROON</b>
Name of organization (for observers to the committee)	<b>Association for Solidarity through Humanitarian Imperative Action (ASHIA) International</b>
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Date	<b>26/02/2023</b>

### I. Substantive elements

#### 1. Objective(s)

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

Proposed Objective: To develop, implement and update national action plans reflecting country-driven approaches and needs initiating multi stakeholder action plans at all levels to address plastic pollution with the aim of reducing discharge of plastics into the environment in the plastic life cycle and adopting an inclusive and circular economy approach

Explanatory Text: As of low- and middle-income countries, it is extremely important to think about the plastic pollution scenario. Survival is already a major issue in these countries, as a result using plastic is a luxury. Again, plastic production and manufacturing have increased all over the world due to Covid-19 and all low- and middle-income countries have produced tons of plastic products during this pandemic situation. However, to overcome this situation we are proposing the previously mentioned objectives which can be set out in the instrument.

Plastic pollution is a transboundary challenge that requires integrated and global action. There is no international instrument in place designed specifically to prevent plastic pollution throughout the entire plastics lifecycle. The instrument must tackle plastic pollution across the full lifecycle of plastics, from preventive measures in the upstream part of the lifecycle, to downstream ones addressing waste management, in order to prevent plastic pollution in the marine and other environments and to support the goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union vision 2063 in an integrated and inclusive manner.

## 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?*

The instrument should encourage voluntary action by civil society organizations on the ground and encourage the multiplication of such action in a North-South, Private Sector-Civil Society Organization cooperation. The instrument should emphasize the responsibility of polluters, establishing the principle of common but differentiated responsibility with an emphasis on the obligation of multinationals such as Coca-Cola to find alternatives to plastic in the countries where they are present within a time frame that includes sanctions. Also the instrument should promote research and sharing of data and expertise between the NorthSouth on microplastic and the means to contain and reduce them at the level of the sea. It would be wise for the instrument to set up an international multi-stakeholder platform whose role would be to conduct research, sharing of knowledge and technology for the eradication of plastic and find alternatives that are less polluting for humans and the environment, especially the marine environment.

1) Identification, segregation and environmentally safe disposal of toxic plastic products 2) Phase out toxic chemicals from the entire life cycle of the plastic production 3) Phase out hazardous and toxic plastic products 4) Ensure information transparency of the manufactured plastic products 5) Cost-effective recycling of environment-friendly products instead of plastic 6) Participation of stakeholders in ensuring a plastic-free environment 7) Stop or prohibit transboundary movement of hazardous plastic waste 8) Prohibition of plastic littering in fresh water bodies and marine 9) Establishment of regional cooperation to protect plastic pollution 10) Protection and conservation of ecosystem and biodiversity from plastic pollution 11) Measures to be taken to protect agricultural soil from plastic and microplastic pollution 12) Ensuring national level EPR scheme and polluter pay principle to reduce and eliminate plastic pollution

## 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).** Create a scalable action-oriented program (instrument) that encompasses an awareness workshop and voluntary participation in sustainable plastic waste management. The program should be standalone to implement in a localized environment and also be able to scale for regional and national participation through online and social media collaboration. A comprehensive national action plan needs to be developed in consultation with all relevant stake-holders, intergovernmental agencies, civil societies and academia. National action plan should accelerate and ensure participation of all stake-holders to the implementation process.
- b).** The instrument should be data-driven with concrete objectives, current state baseline and self-acknowledged targets to meet. A web application for enrolling, questionnaire-based self-assessment, current state data entry and provision to record target state and verifiable proof for each enrolling institution. At the local and national level, in order for institutions to reduce their plastic footprint and the associated impacts on nature, society and the economy, we need new policy standards, new incentives for industry, and new models of innovation for plastic avoidance, use, reuse and plastic waste management as part of the national reporting tools.
- c).** Non-essential plastics should strictly be eliminated to create non-toxic circular economy. Workers should be provided with opportunities for decent work to produce plastic alternatives with equity, security and human dignity. Technology and information should be made easily accessible for a non-toxic community especially for the low- and middle-income countries.

## 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?*

- Plastic Use Minimization
- Education for attitude change
- Reduce & Reuse • Sustainable alternate means
- Tax increase • Subsidies cut
- Streamline the supply chain
- Enforce ban on single-use plastics and on items having high littering potential Closing the Loop
- Empower the informal sector
- Establish deposit return schemes for all suitable plastic products
- Increase investment in plastic waste collection and sorting
- Double mechanical recycling capability

- Scale up alternative recycling technologies Closing Leakage Pathways
- A dedicated municipal collection system
- Periodical ban on the often-littered items
- Efficient sanitary waste disposal pathways
- Pay and throw
- Extended Producer Responsibility Clean-up
- Grassroots participation campaign
- Polluter pay and polluter clean
- Catch and manage plastic debris on land and in rivers, land and ocean

### 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).

#### CALL TO SOME ACTIONS

We call upon the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC), parties, and stakeholders involved in developing the legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, that the negotiations around the items of the intended instrument must be Realistic, Fair, and Inclusive. This could be achieved by focusing on the following:

1. Plastics have an undeniable added value. However, the improper handling of waste has led to catastrophic impact on the environment. We acknowledge the importance of reaching an agreement to end the waste but believe this instrument must be objective in viewing the problem and detached from any political agenda that might challenge our ability to reach a global consensus on ending plastic pollution.
2. International cooperation is essential, and the plastic waste pollution is global in its nature. However, this instrument should not come at the expense of impact on the local communities. Therefore, the inclusion of the community voices and the representation of their concerns, and their feedback to the suggested solutions prior to the signing of the agreement is crucial and will ensure a smoother adoption process.
3. The instrument should clearly reflect the responsibilities and roles of Governments, Private Sector, third sector as should be stated in the national action plans (NAPs), and community on ending plastic pollution.
4. The instrument should acknowledge the different dimensions and efforts aiming at ending plastic pollutions, including but not limited to: - Education and Awareness. - Fostering Research, Development, and Innovation (RDI). - Investment, Funding, and Incentives. - Promoting International Cooperation. - Standardizing, Sector development, and Value-chain integration. - Regulations, Responsibilities, and Accountability. - Looking back and Moving forward - Remediation & Mitigation.
5. Solutions to end plastic pollution must be feasible, viable and applicable, and consider the capabilities and essential needs of developing countries, the global south, and small islands. This might entail allocation of funding from developed to developing countries , open sourcing technology transfer, and protecting the right for economic prosperity of all member states and their ability to achieve their sustainable development ambitions by reflecting on environmental, economic, and social factors. Furthermore, the instrument should stress the importance of knowledge sharing and transfer between the parties, especially to developing countries and least developed countries to further improve their scientific and technological capabilities.