

WEBINAR 1: Technical briefing on the Potential Options for Elements document

Towards a future Global Plastics Treaty **Briefing on the “Options Paper”**



Thursday 4 May 2023, 15:00 - 16:00 EAT (UPDATED 5 May 2023)

INC-2: Logistics

- INC-2 - UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France, **29 May - 2 June 2023**, with regional meetings on 28 May 2023
- Venue space limit: **1500 delegates** (at any given time within the precinct).
- Secondary access cards will be issued. These access cards, in addition to the meeting badges, will be required to enter the building. The number of access cards per delegation will be determined once **registration closed on 28 April**.
- INC-2 is a critical opportunity for Members to deliberate and decide between possible options, moving to the negotiation of substance.

Background

- The INC secretariat was asked to prepare **a document with potential options for elements** towards an international legally binding instrument:
 - 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,
 - In consultation with the INC Chair.
- A call for written submissions was launched and the secretariat received 67 written submissions from member States and 176 written submissions from stakeholders.
- Available on INC website in all six UN languages: [UNEP/PP/INC.2/4](#)

Questions

To ask a question, please indicate:

Member State: Country + name

Others: Organization + name

Structure & Content of the “Options Paper”

Section I – Introductory note by secretariat

Section II – the potential options for elements

Section II A – Potential options for Objective(s)

Section II B – Twelve possible core obligations with potential control measures and voluntary approaches

Section II C – Means of Implementation

Section II D – Implementation measures

Section II E – Additional matters

Section II F – List of potential annexes to the instrument

Appendix I – Additional potential options for elements not explicitly mentioned in the submission template

Appendix II – Background

Appendix III – Paragraphs 3 and 4 of UNEA resolution 5/14

Example

5. Possible core obligation: strengthening waste management

Comment: An increase from an estimated 353 million metric tons per year of plastic waste in 2019 to 1,014 million metric tons per year in 2060 is expected under a business-as-usual scenario.⁹ Environmentally sound management and disposal of plastic waste need to be strengthened around the world. Small island developing States in particular are facing unique challenges. EPR schemes can make producers responsible for the environmental impact of their products throughout the life cycle, accelerating the market for waste recycling, incentivizing producers to create products with circularity in mind and reducing leakage of plastic waste into the environment. Action taken at other stages of the life cycle, in particular earlier in the cycle, may also reduce the amount and nature of the waste to be managed, thereby facilitating effective implementation of waste management systems.

14. The committee may wish to consider including some or all of the following potential options for control measures and voluntary approaches to strengthen waste management:

- (a) Options for enhancing waste management capacity and promoting innovation:
 - (i) **Deploy and foster the development of technologies** for the collection, recycling and disposal of plastic waste.
 - (ii) **Set a target** for reducing the generation of plastic waste that needs final disposal operations such as landfilling and incineration.
 - (iii) Develop **guidance** for areas such as:
 - a. **Encouragement of investment in waste management infrastructure;**
 - b. **Sampling, analysis, monitoring, reporting and verification** of plastic waste in the environment, to support policymakers in measuring the impact of implemented targets and policies;
 - c. **Specifications for containers, equipment and storage sites containing plastic waste.**
 - (iv) Promote research for innovation.

⁹ Adapted from UNEP/PP/INC.1/7, para. 24.

Potential options for objective(s) (Section II A)

Three options set out:

- (a) End plastic pollution; protect human health and the environment from its adverse effects throughout the life cycle of plastic.
- (b) Protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of plastic pollution throughout the life cycle.
- (c) Reduce the production, use and discharge of plastics across their life cycle, including through the promotion of a circular plastics economy with a view to ending plastic pollution by X year and protecting human health and the environment from its adverse effects.

Possible Core Obligations (Section II B)

- Substantive Obligations -

- 1 Primary plastic polymers
- 2 Problematic & avoidable plastic products
- 3 Chemicals & polymers of concern
- 4 Microplastics
- 5 Waste management
- 6 Design for circularity
- 7 Reduce, reuse, repair of plastic products & packaging
- 8 Safe, sustainable alternatives and substitutes
- 9 Release to water, soil and air
- 10 Existing plastic pollution
- 11 Just & inclusive transition
- 12 Human health

Possible Obligations (Section II B)

1

Primary plastic
polymers

Phasing out and/or reducing the supply of, demand for and use of primary plastic polymers

(A) options for global targets, nationally determined commitments/targets

(B) regulating primary plastic polymers via moratorium/ban; import & export requirements; tracking types and volumes; licensing schemes

(C) market-based measures

Possible Obligations (Section II B)

2

Problematic
& avoidable
plastic products

Banning, phasing out and/or reducing the use of problematic and avoidable plastic products

- (A) monitor production of raw materials + global baseline
- (B) set criteria
- (C) ban, phase out, reduce or control
- (D & E) import & export requirements

Possible Obligations (Section II B)

3

Chemicals &
polymers of
concern

Banning, phasing out and/or reducing the production, consumption and use of chemicals and polymers of concern

- (A) regulating via ban, phase out, reduce or control; import & export requirements
- (B) increasing transparency (e.g. via tracking types and volumes; disclosure requirements; marking and labelling)
- (C) accelerating transition by incentivizing innovation & substitutes (incl. sustainable or green chemistry and chemical simplification; incentivizing research and development of sustainable additives and polymers)

Possible Obligations (Section II B)

4

Microplastics

Reducing microplastics

- (A) addressing intentional use (e.g. via ban, phase-out, reduce or control)
- (B) addressing unintentional release (minimizing risk; wastewater treatment; guidelines)

Possible Obligations (Section II B)

5

Waste
management

Strengthening waste management

- (A) enhancing waste management capacity and promoting innovation
- (B) regulating plastic waste (e.g. movement, end of life; prohibiting dangerous practices)
- (C) addressing illegal dumping & disposal
- (D) promoting EPR and enabling a market for recycling

Possible Obligations (Section II B)

6

Design for
circularity

Fostering design for circularity

- (A) circularity criteria and guidance for products and packaging
- (B) require products and packaging to conform to criteria
- (C) global harmonized system with national requirements
- (D) Labelling measures
- (E) minimum recycled content target for products
- (F) central data exchange registry

Possible Obligations (Section II B)

7
Reduce, reuse,
repair of plastic
products &
packaging

Encouraging reduce, reuse and repair of plastic products and packaging

- (A) set targets for reduction, reuse and repair
- (B) regulating and encouraging reduction and reuse (e.g. guidelines; service delivery systems; collection of used plastics by sector; harmonized product design standards, certifications, and requirements; fees, tariffs, tax breaks, EPR schemes, deposit refund, product take-back, right-to-repair, and removed trade barriers)

Possible Obligations (Section II B)

8

Safe,
sustainable
alternatives
and substitutes

Promoting the use of safe, sustainable alternatives and substitutes

(A) enhancing research and development

(B) reviewing and enabling (e.g. certification scheme; technical review committee to assess criteria; funding and support mechanisms for natural alternatives to plastic; economic instruments incl. fees and subsidies, tradeable permits)

Possible Obligations (Section II B)

9

Release to
water, soil
and air

Eliminating the release and emission of plastics to water, soil, and air

- (A) general and sectoral measures (incl. wastewater, fishing, industrial facilities, aquaculture, agriculture, transport)
- (B) best available technologies, best environmental practices (incl. emission/effluent standards)
- (C) prohibiting dangerous practices to prevent toxic emissions
- (D) prevent & reduce loss of fishing gear containing plastic

Possible Obligations (Section II B)

10

Existing
plastic
pollution

Addressing existing plastic pollution

- (A) remediation measures (incl. marine environment and ABNJ) / cooperation on strategies to identify, prioritize and address areas of legacy waste
- (B) sector/context-specific measures (incl. ghost gear pollution; remediation; criteria and guidelines on best available technologies and best environmental practices)

Possible Obligations (Section II B)

11

Just &
inclusive
transition

Facilitating a just transition, including an inclusive transition of the informal waste sector

- (A) mechanism esp. for developing countries
- (B) require waste management companies to collect from informal waste picker cooperatives/associations and support formalization
- (C) improve working conditions (incl. legal recognition and support)
- (D) integrate informal waste sector into value chain
- (E) use EPR revenues to train informal waste pickers

Possible Obligations (Section II B)

12

Human
health

Protecting human health from the adverse effects of plastic pollution

- (A) assessing and evaluating risks (incl. further research)
- (B) cooperation, collaboration and exchange of information (e.g. with intergovernmental organizations incl. WHO, ILO; improve One Health approach)

Means of implementation (Section II C)

- 1) Stand-alone provisions vs. integrated mechanism?
- 2) Specific options for each category:
 - financial assistance
 - capacity-building
 - technical assistance
 - technology transfer on mutually agreed terms

Means of implementation (Section II C)



Financial assistance

new, additional, stable, accessible, adequate, timely, and predictable flows of financial resources

- (A) new multilateral fund(s)
- (B) expanding existing fund
- (C) hybrid approach
- (D) additional fund to tackle existing plastic pollution & remediate legacy plastic waste
- (E) innovative and other financing opportunities

Means of implementation (Section II C)



Capacity-building

- (A) country-driven capacity-building programmes
- (B) capacity-building strategy or mechanism
- (C) training and education programmes
- (D) regional and national networks
- (E) involve private sector, civil society & local communities
- (F) monitoring and evaluation frameworks

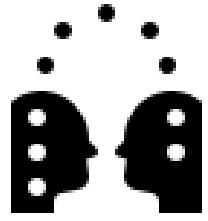
Means of implementation (Section II C)



Technical assistance
adequate and timely

- (A) capacity- building and institutional strengthening
- (B) information exchange and knowledge-sharing
- (C) monitoring, reporting and verification

Means of implementation (Section II C)



Technology transfer on mutually agreed terms

- (A) definition
- (B) consider Minamata language
- (C) foster an enabling environment
- (D) technology needs assessment & cooperation
- (E) developing & implementing effective mechanisms
- (F) Basel Convention/UN (sub)regional centres

Implementation measures (Section II D)

Specific options for:

- national action plans (NAPs)
- national reporting
- compliance
- assessment, monitoring & evaluation

Implementation measures (Section II D)



National action plans

- (A) reflecting nationally defined arrangements and measures
- (B) periodic update and review
- (C) submission through secretariat
- (D) generally applicable guidance (e.g. common elements and minimum content; harmonized; evaluation upon submission and upon completion)

Implementation measures (Section II D)



National reporting

- (A) legally binding obligation vs. encouragement
- (B) Parties own reporting format vs. common reporting framework from governing body
- (C) scope (set by submitting Party or guidelines from governing body)
- (D) review and verification by secretariat

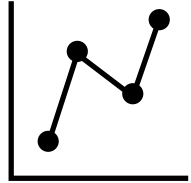
Implementation measures (Section II D)



Compliance

- (A) mechanism/committee
- (B) facilitative and non-adversarial
- (C) scope (implementation of all provisions and/or compliance with legally binding provisions; systemic issues)
- (D) initiation (e.g. self-submission, referral etc.)
- (E) range of measures (e.g. punitive and/or only non-punitive)

Implementation measures (Section II D)



Assessment, monitoring & evaluation

- (A) purpose of periodic assessment and monitoring
- (B) periodicity
- (C) Institutional arrangements
- (D) sources of information

Additional matters (Section II E)

Specific options for:

- awareness-raising and education
- exchange of information
- Research
- cooperation and coordination
- stakeholder engagement

Additional matters (Section II E)

Awareness-raising and education

(A) scope/focus

(B) mechanism (e.g. communication/education plan; programmes and citizen campaigns; public participation; trainings; guidance for school curricula; role of multistakeholder entities; knowledge transfer strategies)

Additional matters (Section II E)

Exchange of Information

- (A) scope/focus (best practices, knowledge, research, technologies; sources, risks, solutions; indigenous wisdom)
- (B) mechanism(s) (mandatory disclosure; registry; NAPs; prior informed consent; existing voluntary initiatives; multistakeholder action agenda; regional networks; cooperation; side events; other multilateral processes)

Additional matters (Section II E)

Research

- promote cooperation and coordination
- specific functions of subsidiary bodies regarding research
- research into specific areas, including into:
 - (A) State of current knowledge
 - (B) Impacts of plastic pollution
 - (C) Potential avenues for addressing the problem

Additional matters (Section II E)

Cooperation and coordination

- with relevant regional or international conventions, instruments and organizations (e.g. on technology transfer and innovation; research; capacity-building; awareness raising and knowledge sharing; technical and scientific cooperation; monitoring)

Additional matters (Section II E)

Stakeholder engagement

(A) Promoting ambitious actions and cooperation with stakeholders

(B) mechanisms of multi-stakeholder action agenda

List of potential annexes to the instrument (Section II F)

- Several Members submitted more detailed criteria and lists for specific options
- Based on this, Secretariat identified potential annexes
- Detailed information contained in complementary information document prepared by Secretariat **UNEP/PP/INC.2/INF/2 (to be available shortly)**

Appendix I

Includes additional potential options for elements not explicitly mentioned in submission template

Section I: Introductory elements

- preamble; definitions; scope; principles

Section II: Institutional arrangements

- governing body, subsidiary bodies, scientific and technical cooperation & coordination, Secretariat

Further Appendices

Appendix II – further background information and key figures on plastic pollution

Appendix III – paragraphs 3 and 4 of UNEA resolution 5/14

Thematic webinars in the lead-up to INC-2

	Topic	Date and time
1	Technical briefing on the Potential Options for Elements document	MOVED TO: Thursday, 4 May 2023, 16:00 - 17:30 EAT
2	Science informing decision-making	Thursday, 4 May 2023, 16:00 - 17:30 EAT
3	Technical briefing on the organization of work at INC-2	Monday, 8 May 2023, 16:00 – 17:00 EAT
4	Control measures for sustainable consumption and production : addressing unnecessary and problematic plastics, including single-use or short-lived plastics and plastic products, and shifting to sustainable alternatives	Wednesday, 10 May 2023, 14:00 - 15:30 EAT
5	Means of implementation , with a special focus on resource mobilization and financial mechanisms	Thursday, 11 May 2023, 14:00 - 15:30 EAT
6	Promoting a circular economy to reduce the size of the problem: a focus on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and addressing plastic waste	Tuesday, 16 May 2023, 13:00 - 14:30 EAT



Thank you

For questions and queries, please write to:

unep-incplastic.secretariat@un.org