



**United Nations  
Environment  
Programme**



Distr.: General  
26 August 2024

Original: English



**European  
Commission**

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**1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the UNEP/EC  
Working Group to develop a toolkit  
on plastic pollution sources  
Brussel, 3-4 September 2024**

***Terms of Reference of the Working Group***

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## EC- UNEP Project: Identifying and quantifying plastic contaminant sources and leakages into the aquatic environment

### Terms of reference of the Working Group to develop a toolkit

#### Background

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.

The overall objective of the UNEP's Industry and Economy Division is to encourage decision makers in government, local authorities and industry to develop and adopt policies, strategies and practices and technologies that promote sustainable patterns of consumption and production, make efficient use of natural resources, ensure safe management of chemicals and contribute to making trade and environment policies mutually supportive. It promotes the development, use and transfer of policies, technologies, economic instruments, managerial practices and other tools that assist in environmentally sound decision making and the building of corresponding activities.

As part of the Industry and Economy Division, UNEP International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC) works with developing countries to implement sustainable solutions to environmental challenges, with focus on holistic waste management. UNEP-IETC provides technical and advisory support to national and local governments to enhance their use of environmentally sound strategies and approaches. UNEP-IETC also implements in-country demonstration projects using innovative waste prevention and management methods and technologies to improve human well-being, reduce the impact of climate change, increase resilience and create jobs. Working with a wide range of partners and in line with relevant multilateral environmental agreements, UNEP-IETC mission is to serve as a global centre of excellence on environmentally sound technologies with focus on holistic waste management.

#### 1.3. Expected Duration

The working group is expected to be active for 18 months, from the date of its initial launching meeting.

The tasks of the Working Group are as follows:

- i. Collect information on the existing tools/methodologies as well as on the research results related to the plastic pollution sources, including plastic leakage from human activities and sector activities;
- ii. Identify major human activities and sector activities that are associated with plastic discharge or emission;
- iii. Develop specific methodologies to estimate the amount of plastic pollution or leakage from identified sources;
- iv. Develop data category and quality standards to apply the toolkit and suggest data systems to be developed during the toolkit application;
- v. Review a draft toolkit from technical and scientific perspectives;

- vi. Prepare toolkit application modality;
- vii. Advise on the pilot application of the toolkit to a pilot country;
- viii. Advise data collection in the pilot country
- ix. Revise the toolkit based on the feedback from the pilot application of the toolkit; and
- x. Finalise a practical toolkit for online publication.

### 3.3 Work plan

There will be three meetings of the working group during the tool development, through either physical or online meetings, but some work will also be conducted between the meetings. One more meeting will be organised during the application of the developed tool, to get feedback from the application process.

The work plan below is a tentative one, and members will be informed in due advance about updates on it and upcoming activities/tasks.

Activity	Responsible	Format/place	2024				2025
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Launch meeting	PMO	Virtual					
Technical exchange	PMO, PC, RC	Email					
Technical meetings (up to 2)	PMO, RC	TBC					
Final technical meeting	PMO, RC	TBC					

PMO: Programme Manager, PC: Project coordinator, RC: Researcher consultant.