

# INC-1 Plastic Pollution Treaty

First Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) for the development of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment

Punta del Este (Uruguay)

28.11.-2.12.2022

## Statement on Agenda Item 4

IUCN through its World Commission on Environmental law has elaborated different legal briefs for negotiators. We will be happy to share those through the possibility of submissions.

At this time, IUCN would highlight the following, with regard to national action plans:

**National action plans** have been used across various multilateral environmental agreements.

National action plans can be valuable **tools** for government planning and implementation if they are carefully designed and if State Parties have **assistance**, such as technical and financial assistance, to alleviate the potential for excess burdens being placed on governmental entities and communities.

National action plans **should be designed** to increase ambition over time, means promote progression. It would be preferable that the national action plans be communicated on the same time, iterative for all State Parties rather than on staggered timelines. The **content** of national action plans should be informed by the objectives of the Plastic Pollution Treaty and designed to fulfil these objectives, taking in account local and national, eventually regional circumstances, based on strong stakeholder, traditional and indigenous knowledge and science involvement.

**Starting from the bottom-up approach** through national action plans, the Plastic Pollution Treaty should **include a strong system of international oversight**. This would apply to **robust binding guidance for national plans**, binding requirements for reporting on implementation and achievement of these plans (possibly by using indicators), independent review and a mechanism for facilitating implementation and compliance.

To address increasing ambition over time, inclusion of the requirement for iterative processes for all State Parties, the need for progression of ambition in national action plans, global **stocktakes** which inform the level of ambition and common timeframes for reporting for national actions plans should be considered as critical elements.

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Stocktakes could also be used to assess progress regarding plastic pollution at the national level and international level, adoption and implementation of laws and rules relating to plastic pollution, economic transitions away from plastics intensive industries, reductions in biodiversity loss connected with plastic pollution, and reductions in carbon emissions attributable to the plastics industry, to name a few potential options.

IUCN and its WCEL stand ready to support negotiators, countries, municipalities and communities in this endeavor.