

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 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)	Uganda
Name of organization (for observers to the committee)	
Contact person and contact information for the submission	Barirega Akankwasah, PhD
Date	January 2023

I. Substantive elements

1. Objective(s)

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

Proposed Objective:

1. To protect human health and the environment from plastic pollution
2. To Promote Plastics reduction and circularity
3. To prevent and manage plastic pollution across the plastic value chain

Explanatory Text:

Uganda is one of the developing economies in East Africa, that is also home to Lake Victoria and the Source of the Nile. Like many of the developing countries, 80% of Uganda’s population relies on nature based agriculture yet, plastics have been cited as a major component of soil degradation as it takes more than four hundred years (400yrs) to degrade. In addition, the plastics find their way into the lakes and rivers which link them to ocean s and seas thereby contributing to global marine litter.

In addition, most of the economic activities happen around Lake Victoria and indeed records show that City Authorities spend over Ush 6.4 Billion annually to unclog the drainages systems, a bill that could have been invested in health care improvement. Not to mention the possibility of micro plastics ending up into the Lake Victoria aquatic biodiversity and subsequent potential danger to human health and environment.

Despite the gravity of the plastics problem, Uganda has no comprehensive mechanism or sufficient resources, capacity to manage the problem at hand.

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?*

- Put in place legislation to effectively manage plastics pollution including banning of single use plastics where alternatives exist
- Put in place mechanisms to implement Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
- Put in place economic incentives for plastics alternatives and disincentives for virgin plastic production
- Work with private sector to create value out of plastic waste (reuse and recycle models)
- In line with the Bamako Convention, prohibit importation of certain plastics and seek written consent to import certain plastics, thereby limiting the possibility of dumping
- Create desired behaviors through education and awareness creation around plastics usage (trigger demand for recycled plastics)

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).*

- Develop National Action Plans (Strategies) to serve as information baselines against which progress can be measured
- Develop national guidelines and/or Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to implement the global instrument
- Invest in Research and Innovation for Recycling, Reuse and Reducing plastics
- Profile case studies and promote best practices based on the success stories and lessons from failure stories

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?*

- As first step, consider Public Private Partnership (PPP) to managing plastics
- Capacity in Cleaner Production and green economy initiatives
- Financial assistance could be best achieved through Joint Venture Schemes particularly in Extended Producer (EPR) Responsibility implementation
- Equipment, tools and tools for ensuring monitoring and compliance efforts

- Designate an office or contact point to communicate and coordinate with parties on issues related to plastics
- Regional and international collaboration
- Capacity building initiatives
- Technology transfer especially from developed to developing countries

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).

- Tailored sensitization of critical demographics like market ladies (gender issue), pickers, youth etc.
- Creation of knowledge exchange platforms like stakeholder forums, benchmarking engagements among countries with similar characteristics etc.
- Formal training sessions with academic institutions targeting different stakeholders across the value chain.