

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)	Republic of Armenia
Name of organization (for observers to the committee)	Ministry of Environment
Contact person and contact information for the submission	Meri Harutyunyan Chief specialist of Strategic Policy Department, national focal point for the Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee (INC)
Date	20.12.2022

I. Substantive elements

1. Objective(s)

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ global elimination of plastic pollution ✓ restricting and reducing the overall production and use of plastics ✓ environmentally sound management and recycling of plastic waste

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 cover the all life-cycle of plastics and consider strong obligations related to the substances and materials, which will include the transparency requirements on chemicals in plastics.

The instrument should set the following measures to *addressing plastic pollution*.

- ✓ Preventive actions
- ✓ Management actions
- ✓ Recycling actions
- ✓ Bunning actions

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).*

Creation of financial, technical, and technological mechanisms for developing countries, and countries with economies in transition, in order to strengthen national capabilities for the management of plastic pollution and to promote the effective implementation of the Instrument.

Set the obligation related to the development and implementation of a national action plan to stimulate the implementation of the control measures agreed upon in the plastics convention at the national level, and towards achieving the global goals outlined in the

convention within specified timeframes. National plans should include the following measures.

- increasing collection and recycling rates of plastic waste,
- re-design and re-use of plastic products and materials,
- avoiding the unnecessary use of plastic and plastic-containing chemicals,

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?

Awareness raising and Education are important elements in sustaining plastic pollution reduction success. Targeted initiatives at Educational institutions will inspire both collective and individual involvement in this global environmental challenge.

The public must be aware of plastic pollution's impact on human health and the environment and adapt to its consequences. Higher education students pursuing science and engineering degrees need to be taught about new technologies and practices in dedicated fields.

In this regard, the establishment of a flexible mechanism of financial and technical assistance in the frame of this instrument is very important. The toolbar should contain

Capacity building component. Training, information, and support services which will help countries build the national capacity of strategic stakeholders to create the necessary enabling environment for the effective implementation of National Action plans.

Establishment of global information, communication, and education service that will provide the stakeholders with publications, e-services, and other tools that can be used for a national information and awareness campaigns in support of plastic reduction objectives.

The instrument should contain obligations related to the plastic products, which will include the Market-based instruments such as taxes and fees for consumption reduction and harmonized product labelling.

The component related to means of implementation should serve for introductions of flexible mechanisms similar to clean development mechanisms in order to balance the institutional and technological gaps between developed and developing countries.

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).

Scientific & technical cooperation component among others should serve for identification of reliable alternatives for plastic products and materials.

The component related to awareness raising, education & exchange of information should be very strong and contain big spectrum of toolbars.

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TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSIONS

Name of country (for Members of the committee)	Republic of Armenia
Name of organization (for observers to the committee)	Ministry of Environment
Contact person and contact information for the submission	Liana Papakhchyan Chief Specialist of the Hazardous Materials and Waste Policy Department of the Ministry of Environment
Date	26.12.2022

I. Substantive elements

1. Objective(s)

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

- drastic reduction of plastic waste volumes through the use of economic mechanisms,
- development of conceptual approaches to plastic waste management (aimed at preventing or reducing the generation, recycling and utilization of these wastes),
- environmentally safe management of plastic waste

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?*

- application of public awareness mechanisms,
- prevention and reduction of plastic waste,
- sorting of plastic waste as a prerequisite for the most efficient use,
- environmentally safe recycling and reuse

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).*

- provide economic and financial incentives while enhancing environmental control,
 - improve plastic waste reduction targeted legal, economic, organizational and other instruments as the most important component of the waste management system,
 - granting privileges to companies and organizations that reduce the volumes of waste generation and introduce low-waste technologies in production, as well as those engaged in the collection, storage and delivery of waste considered as secondary raw materials, in the case and in the manner prescribed by law.

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?*

- needs assessment and capacity building,
 - there is a need to strengthen capacity for sustainable waste management, including waste management and landfill operations and management planning. It is

important that local authorities and communities are involved in the planning process,

- Technical and financial support is very important because of the waste generated the amount exceeds the existing technical and financial possibilities of collection and storage.

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).

Environmental awareness and proper training through government programs, local bodies and the public are of utmost importance for further development. In order to create appropriate opportunities for waste management by local government bodies, they need to be supported with financial instruments (subsidies, loans, tax privileges, national and international funds)