

TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSIONS

Name of country (for Members of the committee)	
Name of organization (for observers to the committee)	OpenOceans Global
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I. Substantive elements

1. Objective(s)

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

Proposed Objective: Prioritize keeping plastic out of the ocean by intercepting plastic in-river before it can reach the ocean.

Explanatory Text: Recognizing that the implementation of the treaty and even its completion could be a long process, particularly since there are likely to be funding shortfalls. It should be a priority to stop plastic from getting into the ocean at all points of contamination, prioritizing rivers. There are only three primary ways that plastic reaches the ocean: rivers, local litter along the coast, and fisheries and other boat operations. Rivers contribute 80% of plastic to the ocean, according to a study in Science Advances, making this objective a priority.

Proposed Objective: Focus the work on the countries where the most plastic reaches the ocean.

Explanatory Text: Since the best data available recognizes that the vast majority of plastic reaches the ocean from ten countries (as much as 84%), and most of that from five countries (between 55% and 70%), a global commitment to prioritizing resources on those countries is critical. All of these countries, with the exception of China, are developing nations without the resources to fully address plastic themselves. Funding could be made available to finance the needed work from The World Bank, the United Nations, The International Finance Corporation (IFC), the Global Environment Fund (GEF), multinational corporations operating in those countries, the developed nations that produce much of the world's plastic, impact investors, and major philanthropies. This priority does not blame these countries but rather works to make them models to emulate while rapidly reducing the growing amounts of plastic that reach the global ocean, primarily from their shores.

Proposed Objective: Integrate local plastic waste collection initiatives with advanced waste management resources.

Explanatory Text: All over the world, from cities to rural villages, governments, NGOs, and just people are not only picking up trash from beaches, but stopping plastic from reaching the sea by collecting it in rivers. These grassroots efforts need to be expanded and modeled. However, once the plastic is collected, the lack of proper waste management and recycling infrastructure frustrates the goal of disposing of that plastic in the best ways possible. Local collection initiatives need to be coupled with the development of standardized modules for waste disposal and recycling that can efficiently be

transported to locations near where plastic has been captured. This would complement the development of a unified process for collection and processing and provide jobs for local residents. Local solutions require listening to local residents to gain their knowledge and insights. New forward-thinking technologies, such as those that compress plastic waste into building blocks, as one example, could be part of the equation, along with training and associated economic development.

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?*

Core obligation 1: Address the ocean plastic issue from a reverse supply chain perspective.

This recognizes that the end of the supply chain is a shoreline, not at the consumer or final user level. 75% of ocean plastic is on a shoreline. The reverse supply chain concept works backward from the shoreline, up current, into a river, upstream to waste management measures or lack thereof, to the consumer, retailer, distributor, manufacturer, and ultimately resin producer. This provides a way to think holistically about the problem and where resources can most effectively be deployed to achieve the primary goal of keeping plastic out of the ocean. The question to be consistently asked is: where is the point of contamination, and where can that contamination be stopped?

Core obligation 2: Modern waste management must be a core obligation, while recognizing that each country may have localized solutions. If sophisticated, quality waste management systems were in place in each community, there wouldn't be an ocean plastic crisis.

Core obligation 3: For each country to finance the needed changes in their country to the degree possible.

Core obligation 4: The top plastic-producing countries will need to provide technology, training, and significant financial assistance in the billions, if not trillions of dollars.

Core obligation 5: Recognize where plastic use is acceptable and where and when plastic could be banned. The criteria might be to ask this question: Can we live without it? Examples for discussion:

- Plastic (PET) bottles are the most recyclable type of plastic. In California, 57% of PET bottles are recycled. In India, 90% are recycled. Given the importance of plastic bottles in providing clean water in developing countries, can we live without them?
- Styrofoam can easily be replaced by other container types. Can we live without it?
- Plastic gloves and face masks are essential to human health. Can we live without them?
- Plastic bags, plastic straws, and other single-use items can be replaced by other materials. Enforce the reduction of single-use plastic with the goal of eliminating items of convenience. Can we live without them?
- Enforce the reduction of unnecessary packaging materials. Can we live without them?

Core obligation 6: Reduce the number and types of plastic with different ingredients to make them more easily recyclable.

Core obligation 7: Recognize that developed countries contribute to the ocean plastic crisis in three invisible ways:

1. **Shipping plastic waste.** Developed countries ship more than a million tons of plastic waste for recycling and disposal to countries with the least ability to manage waste properly. *In effect, waste management costs are lower in developed countries because their plastic waste is shipped to other countries, thereby polluting the ocean with plastic.*
2. **Manufacturing in countries with poor waste management.** Offshoring manufacturing saves money by using low-cost labor and obtaining raw materials at lower cost. Where waste management is poor or lacking, the cost of waste management is lower than it would be in countries with excellent waste management. *In effect, consumers in developed countries are saving money on the imported goods they purchase by polluting the ocean with plastic.*
3. **Tourism.** Many places where tourism has expanded have ocean plastic pollution issues where they did not exist before. The economic impact of tourism brings with it higher consumption of products made from plastic. *In effect, by visiting countries with poor waste management, tourists obtain lower cost vacations in return for polluting the ocean with plastic.*

Core obligation 8: Where possible, process plastic waste and recycle it in the countries where the waste is produced.

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 the 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).*

TBD – This section requires a review of the initial framework and early drafts before meaningful comments can be made.

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 above, this section requires a review of the initial framework and early drafts before meaningful comments can be made.

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).

As above, this section requires a review of the initial framework and early drafts before meaningful comments can be made.
