

TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSIONS

Name of country (for Members of the committee)	Republic of Moldova
Name of organization (for stakeholders to the committee)	Ministry of Environment
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I. Substantive elements

1. Objective(s)

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

Proposed Objective:

The instrument shall address the whole lifecycle of plastics with priority given to the upstream parts, lay out commitments and provisions that bring consumption and production of plastics to sustainable levels, and to enable a circular economy that protects the environment and human health.

Explanatory Text:

The new instrument should also include the necessary obligations to prevent plastics from entering into the environment, to address all plastic materials and products put on the market.

In this regard we consider that the full life cycle of plastic from the stage of production and processing to end of life or waste management operations, including all types of plastics such as microplastics, nanoplastics, plastic pellets used as raw material in plastic production shall be covered by this instrument. The instrument should enable countries to reduce, to reuse, to recycle and to replace plastics with cleaner alternatives or substitutes. Unnecessary, avoidable, and problematic plastics, substances and additives should be reduced, eliminated, substituted or banned.

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 core obligation to address the plastic pollution are following:

- develop common international and binding obligations and control measures, across the full lifecycle of plastics based on the precautionary approach, waste hierarchy and the polluter-pays and extended producer responsibility principles,
- restrain plastic consumption and production to sustainable levels, and enable a circular economy for plastics that protects the environment and human health while achieving environmentally sound management and recycling of plastic waste.
- eliminate problematic plastics, substances and additives, including by bans and restrictions;
- develop global sustainability criteria and standards for plastics across the full lifecycle;

- set global baselines and targets for sustainability throughout the life-cycle of plastics, as well monitoring and reporting obligations;
- ensure transparency in the value chain of plastics, including for material and chemical composition throughout the life-cycle of plastics;
- establish mechanisms for strengthening commitments, targets and controls over time;
- and facilitate effective technical and financial assistance as well as scientific and socio-economic assessments.

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).*

We strongly believe that a comprehensive and coordinated policy framework with a multi-stakeholder engagement will enable conditions for implementation of the instrument at the national level. Our own experiences show that plastic consumption are deeply rooted within the life-style of our consumers. Without a public buy-in policy, associated with a strong compliance enforcement our efforts would be ineffective. We need a clear and consistent policy which will encourage innovation and investments in infrastructure towards transition to a circular economy. We also would like point to the importance of involvement in the implementation process of product designer, in order to have them on board since beginning.

In order to ensure effectiveness of the instrument it is important to have a common framework of indicators that will support monitoring and reporting at the national, regional and global level. Existed national reporting system on waste management, on PRTR, etc. that already are used for reporting under other MEA, shall be used to monitor achievement of established recycling targets for plastics instrument.

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?*

We are confident that public, private as well as international and domestic finance will have an important role to play to achieve the objectives of the future instrument. We consider important to including provisions to incentivize private financial flows and investments to support the overarching goal and objectives of the instrument. We would like to underline the importance of the national EPR schemes in developing policy tools as is incentives instrument that includes charges and levies.

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).

At the INC1 countries agreed on urgent need to tackle plastic use and plastic disposal as a major contributor to the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. Even the crises become obviously, many countries lack resources to do a relevant researches and scientific work on plastic pollution effects. In this regard a regular updates on new scientific information and exchange information on the current state of knowledge is crucial to assess the best available science, emerging trends and available best techniques.

We believe that ongoing TA projects financed by UNEP and other donors will help countries with economy in transition to have an in-depth understanding of the current situation on put on the market plastics and existed plastics waste management practice that is of crucial importance to build up a coherent and complete picture for the baseline scenario on which further activities shall build on. An ambitious plan to end plastic pollution must be efficient and effective in long term for all countries united to make this change. In this regard in order to ensure that we are reducing the overall production and consumption of plastics to sustainable levels through concrete measures, we should know well the current situation to set up a well-informed targets, and policies that will ensure effective interventions –along the entire plastics lifecycle.