

Australian Government Written Intervention

Australia would like to thank the Government of the French Republic for its outstanding efforts and generosity in hosting the second Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee meeting.

Australia remains firmly committed to negotiating an ambitious, legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution. We are mindful of the high stakes of this work, and the hopes of people all around the world who look to this process to progress a tangible and meaningful pathway forward. This will require not only strong national-led action, but also globally agreed standards and binding obligations to facilitate and give certainty to the major transition necessary across all economies.

Australia thanks the Secretariat of the INC for preparing the Options Paper, which provides a clear framework to guide our discussions this week. Building on this options paper, Australia's priorities for the instrument are that it includes:

1. **An overarching objective for the instrument to end plastic pollution from all sources to protect the environment and human health.**
2. **Measures to restrain primary plastic production to sustainable levels.** Setting a clear signal here will support the private sector to make necessary investment in technologies and business models that will increase plastic recycling rates and improve the availability of more sustainable alternatives.
3. **Binding provisions to eliminate and restrict unnecessary, avoidable and problematic plastic products and packaging.** We can – and should - phase out the problem plastics we simply don't need. We note over 80 Member States have already phased out certain problematic single-use plastics, demonstrating that such phaseouts are both feasible and effective in a range of national contexts. We also note over 130 Member States have expressed support for control measures on problematic single use plastics.
4. **Binding provisions to eliminate, avoid and better manage** chemicals of concern from use throughout the plastics supply chain.
5. **Core obligations to ensure safe circularity for plastics.** The product design stage is where we can have the most impact to reduce the detrimental impacts of plastics that are used in our economies. The instrument should include obligations for sustainable design criteria, that ensure products are designed, produced, manufactured, and transported in a way that facilitates a circular economy and minimises adverse impacts on the environment and human health.

We also note the need to work with industry to establish harmonised transparency and traceability frameworks. These frameworks will support industry's transition and realise new economic opportunities.

6. **Binding provisions to reduce and manage plastic waste in an environmentally sound and safe manner and to address legacy waste,** in a manner which complements existing international instruments. This must include provisions to remediate existing plastic pollution, recognising its disproportionate impacts on small island developing states, including Pacific Island Countries. We must look for the best available options now and remain open to new solutions as they emerge.

7. **Provisions for implementation measures**, which will be critical to the instrument's ultimate success. Priority implementation provisions include:
- Provisions for innovative and effective **capacity building, technical assistance and finance and funding models** to support the transformation required across all economies to sustainably manage plastics. This should include consideration of ways to align and influence existing multilateral work programs, funding and financing arrangements to amplify dedicated efforts under this instrument to end plastic pollution.
 - Obligations for **monitoring, reporting and compliance** to support Member States' implementation activities, and to ensure we can adequately measure our progress in reducing plastic pollution.
 - Provisions to ensure that development and implementation of the legally binding instrument draw upon **Indigenous and local knowledge**, and the latest **scientific and technical advice**.

Australia looks forward to outcomes of discussions at INC-2 delivering a clear mandate for the Chair to prepare zero draft treaty text for consideration at INC-3.

We reiterate that this is a global problem requiring a global solution. We look forward to working with all countries to deliver a strong and ambitious instrument, noting only an ambitious approach will be enough to end plastic pollution.

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