

July 14th, 2022

Written Submission from Costa Rica to the INC process

Costa Rica would like to highlight the following elements on the preparation for the first INC meeting:

- We are of the view that the structure of the instrument should include, at least, the following elements in separate approaches (clusters):
 - General provisions that incorporate clear **objectives and definitions**, as foundations for the rest of the negotiation.
 - Comprehensive approach of the **full lifecycle of plastic**, with a clear view of the three stages of this cycle and its interlinkages, including the concept of circular economy. The stages must include sustainable production and consumption (upstream), product design, including manufacture and chemicals use (midstream), and adequate waste management (downstream).
 - Robust **means of implementation** as well as **capacity building and technology transfer** to make sure all countries, in particular developing countries, have sufficient means to address plastic pollution in all its broader context.
 - Dedicated **financial mechanisms**, including the creation of a specific fund for technical assistance.
 - A specific component for **national actions plans** to contribute to the objectives of the instrument and to assure international cooperation and financial support for its implementation.
 - Institutional framework to guarantee the effectiveness of the instrument, with a **scientific body** that can provide technical support for decision-making.

- Other general topics that Costa Rica believes should be referred in the overall text are:
 - Broad stakeholder involvement, including civil society, private sector, SMEs and NGOs among others, to assure the adequate implementation of the instrument.
 - Research and innovation to move towards sustainable consumption and production.
 - Substitutive materials for plastic, and appropriate labeling for correct disposal.
 - Extended producer responsibility.
 - Regional and subregional approach.
 - All Rio Principles, including common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

- Costa Rica believes that the creation of working groups during the negotiation process, as well as during intersessional work, would be of great support to advance on the negotiation. Nevertheless, the size of the delegations, in particular of developing countries, should be taken into account before deciding on the option of having parallel sessions, as this may difficult full participation.
- Our delegation reiterates the importance of having a written proposal from the Secretariat for the first session, presenting options for the structure of the future instrument.
- We are committed to fully engage in the negotiations, and we strongly believe that sustainable post pandemic rebuilding is not only ideal but smarter as it offers higher returns; hence: good business.