

Glossary of key terms

- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a policy approach under which producers are given a significant responsibility – financial and/or physical – for the treatment or disposal of post-consumer products. Assigning such responsibility could in principle provide incentives to prevent wastes at the source, promote product design for the environment and support the achievement of public recycling and materials management goals. ([OECD](#))
- *Extended producer responsibility (EPR)*: Environmental policy approach in which a producer's responsibility for a product is extended to the waste stage of that product's life-cycle. In practice, EPR involves producers taking responsibility for the management of products after becoming waste, including: collection; pre-treatment, e.g. sorting, dismantling or de-pollution; (preparation for) reuse; recovery (including recycling and energy recovery) or final disposal. EPR systems can allow producers to exercise their responsibility either by providing the financial resources required and/or by taking over the operational aspects of the process from municipalities. They assume the responsibility voluntarily or mandatorily; EPR systems can be implemented individually or collectively. ([UNEP CHW.13/INF/ 8 – Draft Practical Manuals on extended producer responsibility and financing system for environmentally sound management](#))
- EPR extends a producer's responsibility for his product to the stage of its life cycle after consumption. The extension of the organizational and financial responsibility sets incentives for achieving a sustainable product design. Raising product prices will also address the consumers directly and possibly influence their consumption patterns, so that municipal disposal and waste authorities might experience a financial relief. EPR is widely supported by manufacturers, the (global) waste-management-actors and the civil society. Role model function for various waste streams. Full life-cycle approach; incentive systems (modulated fees) are possible. Capability to reduce carbon-footprint; crucial element within the (just-)transition towards a more sustainable future.

Stakeholder engagement under other instruments

- [UNEP/EA.3/Res.7 \(Marine litter and microplastics\)](#)
(5) 5. Recognizes that the private sector and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, can contribute significantly to preventing and reducing marine litter and microplastics, including through information sharing, awareness-raising, developing new environmentally sound technologies, capacity-building and clean-up actions, and encourages cooperation between Governments, regional bodies, the private sector and civil society, including through the Global Partnership on Marine Litter and its regional nodes, to that end;
(6) Notes the important role of key sectors such as plastic producers, retailers and the consumer goods industry, as well as importers, packaging firms and transport firms, to contribute to the reduction of marine litter, including microplastics, arising from their products and activities, as well as to provide information on the impacts arising from their products throughout their life cycle, and encourages innovative approaches such as the use of extended producer responsibility schemes, container deposit schemes and other initiatives
- [UNEP/EA.4/Res.9 \(Addressing single-use plastic products pollution\)](#)
Noting the important role played by key actors, such as plastics producers, retailers, the consumer goods industry, importers, packaging firms, transporters and recyclers, in contributing to a reduction in plastic waste resulting from their products and activities, as well as in providing information on the impact of their products and encouraging the adoption of innovative approaches, such as the use of extended producer responsibility schemes and deposit refund schemes [...]