



International Organization for Standardization  
Organisation internationale de normalisation  
Международная организация по стандартизации



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## Statement

### **To the First Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) for the development of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment**

**Punta del Este (Uruguay), 28.11.2022 – 02.12.2022**

Mister Chair,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Colleagues,

Thank you for this opportunity to make a statement. I'm representing the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

ISO is an international non-governmental organization with a vision to make lives easier, safer and better. We are member-based organization of National Standards Bodies representing 167 different countries.

Some of you here today might be familiar with [ISO 14001 on environmental management system](#), which sets out measures to reduce waste and overall environmental impact, or indeed [ISO 9001 on quality management](#), but ISO has more than 24 000 standards, and many of these are directly related to plastic pollution.

[Examples](#) include ISO 15270 *Guidelines for the recovery and recycling of plastics waste*, or ISO 22766 *Determination of the degree of disintegration of plastic materials in marine habitats under real field conditions*.

ISO standards are globally agreed best ways of doing something. They encompass the distilled wisdom of experts in their field who understand the needs of the organizations and stakeholders they represent. Standards are accelerators of change for good: they support global trade, drive inclusive and equitable economic growth, advance innovation and promote health and safety to achieve a sustainable future.

International standards provide methodologies and measurement criteria that lay down a common foundation for global action adding value to national and international environmental policymaking.

They can give detailed and precise information to business, governments, civil society, municipalities and the public on how to concretely translate a policy goal into action and be referenced in regulation.

Referencing ISO standards in regulation is consistent with obligations of the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement as they provide confidence that requirements for products and testing have global



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relevance and are accepted worldwide and ensure that parties involved in trade agreements respect their TBT obligations.

Hence, a number of international agreements, including the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, refer to international standards as tools to support their implementation.

Many countries, technical experts and stakeholders are involved in ISO's consensus-based multi-stakeholder standards development process on topics such as [environmental](#) and sustainability aspects of plastics, [circular economy](#), or [environmental labeling](#) – which are highly relevant to today's discussions as they cut across the whole life-cycle and value chain of plastics.

ISO will be engaging in the INC process as an Observer organization and we remain available to collaborate with all relevant parties to support the process and positive outcomes.

Thank you.

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