



## IUCN Key messages

*Ad hoc open-ended working group (OEWG) to prepare for the intergovernmental negotiating committee on plastic pollution, 30 May - 1 June 2022, Dakar, Senegal*

### General remarks

IUCN welcomes the 2022 Resolution by UNEA 5.2 to convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an internationally legally binding instrument on plastic pollution,

A new globally binding plastic pollution treaty must address impacts across a full lifecycle approach while taking into account national circumstances and capabilities for implementation. A future treaty should also take into account all externalities accounting for true cost of plastic pollution on ecosystem services and human health.

The completion of a global legally binding agreement by the end of 2024 should lead to alternatives that will address the full lifecycle of plastics, the design of reusable and recyclable products and materials.

Recognizing that synergistic action is more urgent than ever, IUCN also calls on States to commit to:

- An Agreement that takes a national approach coupled with robust international oversight.
- Ensuring national action plans include binding targets and timeframes that measure progress;
- International oversight to include clear objective(s), key definitions, standards, transparency requirements with precise rules for reporting as well as independent review, and means to address compliance,
- Include language that Increase of level of ambition (“progression”) as expressed in national action plans, at regular intervals.
- Affirm the importance of proactive, effective, equitable, inclusive, gender-responsive treaty for the most vulnerable.

The Union appreciates the invitation to civil society and IGOs to participate in this process and looks forward to supporting the forthcoming negotiations. IUCN stands ready to support member states and bring its experience from working at national and regional levels to inform the proceedings.

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## Purpose

To seek a legally binding instrument to create a global level playing field, as well as to promote greater international cooperation, transparency and control.

It is crucial that the instrument promotes sustainable production and consumption of plastics, including through resource efficiency and circular economy approaches addressing the full life-cycle of plastics in order to end plastic pollution – not just to reduce it;

Need to consider that the reduction of plastics production and consumption is integral, as is promoting the sustainable production and consumption of plastics, including product design, substitutes and environmentally sound management of wastes.

## Treaty Design

- Agreement to take a national approach coupled with international oversight.
- Parties to focus on adopting binding national action plans which include binding targets and timeframes, as well as robust national monitoring and reporting measures on the progress of implementation;
- Parties to increase their level of ambition (“progression”) as expressed in their national action plans at regular intervals,
- This national approach needs to be combined with strong international oversight, including clear (numerical, verifiable) objective(s), key definitions (e.g. for ‘plastics’, ‘biodegradable plastics’, ‘plastics recycling’, etc.), standards, transparency requirements with precise rules for reporting as well as independent review, and means to address compliance,
- Parties must remain ambitious and periodically take stock of their collective progress in implementing the agreement Review existing policies, management frameworks, and emerging technologies to minimize plastic pollution and complement those actions already addressed through other Multilateral Agreements and platforms

## Substance

Ensure that the focus of the negotiations remains on a robust instrument with high environmental integrity, promoting a circular economy and addressing the full life cycle of plastics, which includes, but is not limited to:

- Harmonized definitions for key terms, the preparation of national inventories on production, consumption, trade and end of life treatment to enable identifying and monitoring of targeted interventions.
- Identifying and adopting preventative measures across the life cycle on up and downstream aspects based on sound scientific principles.
- Decouple plastics production from petrochemicals/fossil fuels
- Measures to increase resource efficiency and phase in the use of substitutes
- Consider the need to identify particular polymers and chemical additives of concern for human health and biodiversity impacts.
- Work towards developing material and product design principles that will allow for considerations of origin (feedstock), product application, overall environmental impact, and end-of-life
- Reflect on what constitutes environmentally sound plastics recycling methods and cost effective alternative materials for substitution.

- Mechanisms for transparent review of progress on national reports based on harmonized monitoring methodologies that are practical, scalable, economically viable and ecologically representative.
- Ensure that the potential implications of a treaty on the informal waste sector and vulnerable communities are sufficiently addressed and mitigation measures in place with appropriate environmental and social safeguards.
- Alignment with the goals of SDG 11 and 6 in particular SDG 11.6 and SDG 6.3.
- Support scientific research and harmonization of data collecting protocols - and enhancing cooperation in scientific research and the sharing of data for decision-making that builds on the corpus of international environmental law, and is informed by:
  - Applying best available science, based on regular scientific and socio-economic assessments related to plastic pollution
  - Adopting the precautionary principle: the absence of scientific certainty should not prevent from taking ambitious measures to end plastic pollution
  - Reducing and eliminating unsustainable patterns of production and consumption
  - Encouraging that the cost of pollution is born throughout the life cycle of plastics.
- Make provision to address new and emerging issues such as nanoparticles of plastics and other unknowns.
- Strengthen synergies with parallel international, regional and sub-regional initiatives and policy developments, as well as with national programs and strengthen measures addressing the transboundary nature of plastic pollution.
- Integrate national level learning on implementation of actions and on national plastic foot printing methodologies as a basis to identify interventions and instruments for addressing those hotspots identified.

### **Sustainable Finance**

- Financial instruments for the legal obligations dependent on availability of financing that supports capacity building and technical assistance for effective implementation
- The need for a dedicated multilateral fund and/or integrating into existing multilateral funds
- Private sector commitment- i.e. large corporations working in multiple jurisdictions- dedicate financial resources to a global fund that gets distribution (longer-term commitment and tracking/reporting etc.
- Mechanisms to promote innovative business models and engagement for small to medium enterprises in emerging and developing economies.