

The Nigeria Waste Platform and member network at International Waste Platform - we are working for collective impact to reduce the plastic crisis and advocating for a successful waste management globally through a holistic program that shall integrate all the technical, economic, social, cultural, and psychological factors that are often ignored in waste management programs.

We strongly recommend global policies and instruments to support the following interventions:

Overarching Interventions

- Development of a global roadmap to phase out non-essential single-use plastic products;
 - Regulate mandatory extended producer responsibility and corporate social responsibility;
 - Education for sustainable development based on climate change, waste and ocean literacy included in school curricula across all ages;
 - Classify plastic waste as a hazardous material.
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Interventions to reduce waste from the source

- Prioritization of measures to reduce single-use plastics;
- Promote re-use of plastic products;
- Regulate brand-owners to introduce alternative delivery models (for example, refill systems in supermarkets);
- Regulate supermarkets to introduce alternative supply models and refill systems in their supply chain;
- Regulate packaging across retail sectors such as food delivery, take-away and e-commerce; promote re-usable packaging in e-commerce;
- Regulate waste reductions and management across retail sectors and retail distribution systems;
- Regulate the Right to Repair (electronics);
- Prohibit the use of plastic stickers, rubber bands and PE foam nets used on fruit and vegetables;
- Regulate non-functional slack filling in food items and drinks packaging; eliminate non-essential packaging;
- Regulate Deposit Return Systems;
- Regulate the use of unified packaging strategies by manufacturers;
- Phase out materials that are non-recyclable or difficult to recycle;

- Promote the use of plastic-free alternatives such as bamboo, wood, paper and other degradable materials; with the use of biomass other environmental factors including water use, food security, deforestation and land-use should also take into consideration.
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Preventive measures related to the production of virgin plastics, plastics with mixed virgin & recyclable content, and bio-based plastics

- Regulate and prohibit the use of toxic additives (REACH <https://echa.europa.eu/regulations/reach/understanding-reach>) ;
 - Simplify and harmonize recycling information used on packaging;
 - Regulate accountability against greenwash and the verification of sustainability claims; harmonizing terminology;
 - Regulate packaging producers to disclose plastic material flows;
 - Regulate and reduce the production of virgin resin pellets, or nurdles, and single-use plastics.
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Litter interventions

- Tackle marine litter at its source: take upstream measures to prevent litter from entering rivers and lakes;
 - Regulate cigarette producers to fund cigarette filter collection points and clean-ups;
 - Clean up current plastic waste exposed under open-air in areas such as rivers, lakes, oceans, touristic sites, and rural areas.
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Disposal

- Regulate landfill and in particular non-sanitary landfills;
 - Address the open burning of waste;
 - Discourage incineration, excluding medical waste;
 - Promote effective recycling and management
 - Increase standardization of collection systems, plastic waste transportation and recycling processes, especially in rural areas
 - Promote the re-use of plastic waste, including agricultural films and pesticide packaging
 - Elevate the capacity of environmentally sound plastic waste disposal systems

Trans boundary waste

- Enforcing measures to curb illicit waste trade (Basel / Stockholm Conventions);
- Regulate a waste export cap to other countries

Marine, riverine and lake based sources of plastic pollution

- Enforce MARPOL Annex 5 -Establish waste management facilities in ports;
 - Measures to reduce and prevent abandoned, lost and discarded fishing gear (ALDFG)¹

Inclusivity

- Establish local recycling facilities in remote and rural regions in developing regions, and small island development states;
- Review the current funding systems for ocean and climate action;
- Develop an inclusive funding system, which includes grassroots organization.

¹ Although approximately 5.7% of all fishing nets, 8.6% of all traps, and 29% of all lines are lost globally every year (Richardson et al., 2019), the actual amount of lost fishing gear is likely high due to its pervasive use. To effectively reduce the amount of ALDFG, we need to clamp down on illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, expand no-take zones, and establish legal ramifications that will prevent ALDFG.