

## **Call for written submissions – Proposed response template on the potential options for elements towards an international legally binding instrument**

On 9 December 2022, the Executive Secretary of the INC Plastic Pollution Secretariat sent a notification inviting written submissions from members of the committee and from observers. The template below is intended to provide guidance to members of the committee and observers in structuring the written submissions.

As requested by INC-1, written submissions will inform the secretariat in the preparation of a document with potential options for elements towards an international legally binding instrument, for consideration at the second session of the INC, without in any way prejudging what the committee might decide regarding the structure and provisions of the instrument. The document is to be based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastics as called for by UNEA resolution 5/14, including identifying the objective, substantive provisions including core obligations, control measures, and voluntary approaches, implementation measures, and means of implementation.

The template below is meant to assist Members and Observers to prepare their written submission as a guide. A number of documents prepared for INC-1 are of relevance, notably UNEP/PP/INC.1/5 on 'Potential elements, based on provisions in paragraphs 3 and 4 of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/14, including key concepts, procedures and mechanisms of legally binding multilateral agreements that may be relevant to furthering implementation and compliance under the future international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment'.

The template is divided into three sections:

- I. Substantive elements
- II. Implementation elements
- III. Additional input

All written submissions must be sent to [unep-incplastic.secretariat@un.org](mailto:unep-incplastic.secretariat@un.org). The statements received will be compiled and made available the INC webpage.

Please note that it is not required for all fields to be answered in the template for submission.

### **Deadline for submissions:**

- 6 January 2023 for written submissions from observers.
- 10 February 2023 for written submissions from Members of the Committee.

## TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSIONS

Name of country (for Members of the committee)	Republic of Korea
Name of organization (for observers to the committee)	
Contact person and contact information for the submission	<p>Ji Hoon Jung First Secretary Green Diplomacy Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs jhjung@mofa.go.kr / greengrowth@mofa.go.kr</p> <p>Jong Woo Kim Second Secretary Green Diplomacy Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs jwokim22@mofa.go.kr</p> <p>Yousang Moon Deputy Director Resource Circulation Policy Division, Ministry of Environment adt4773@korea.kr</p>
Date	

### I. Substantive elements

#### 1. Objective(s)

a) *What objective(s) could be set out in the instrument?*

<p><b>Proposed Objective:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>To end plastic pollution to protect human health and the environment from its adverse effects</b></li> <li>- <b>To achieve a circular economy throughout the lifecycle of plastics</b></li> </ul> <p>Explanatory Text:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNEA Resolution 5/14(End Plastic Pollution: toward an International Legally binding Instrument) aims at protecting human health and the environment from the adverse impacts of plastic pollution. It is essential to achieve circular plastics economy in order to end plastic pollution. Circular economy refers to a system that enhances product sustainability and establishes circulation network of resources that minimizes the inputs of resources and energy.</li> <li>- The objective of the instrument is addressing the problem of plastic pollution by encouraging the reduction of unsustainable use of plastics and increase the circularity of plastics. In order to achieve this objective, the provisions of the instrument should be feasible.</li> </ul>
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## 2. Core obligations, control measures and voluntary approaches

a) *What core obligations, control measures and voluntary approaches would provide a comprehensive approach to addressing plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, throughout the full life cycle in line with the future objective(s) of the instrument?*

### **Core Obligations and Control Measures**

There is a need to adopt feasible core obligations and control measures which are appropriate to address plastic pollution. All Parties should participate in taking measures to address plastic pollution considering its different national circumstances, so adopting measures that are feasible to all Parties are important for the implementation of the legally binding instrument.

Measures should promote the circularity of plastics from all stages of its lifecycle from production, use and waste treatment.

Suggested options:

- **Production stage: Increasing circularity and sustainability in production of primary plastic polymers and applying eco-design**
  - Reducing production of primary plastic polymers, especially petrochemical plastics polymers, to sustainable levels
  - Applying eco-design principles that enhances sustainability (durability, repairability, reusability, recyclability and compostability)
  - Providing incentives and using eco-label certification system for eco-friendly products that reduces environmental burden
  - Expanding of the use of recycled raw materials in the plastic manufacturing stage
  - Encouraging the use of substitute materials, such as bioplastics and biodegradable plastics
  - Minimizing use of plastics that have adverse effects on the environment and human health
  
- **Consumption stage: using plastics and plastic products sustainably**
  - Reducing the use of petrochemical plastics
  - Restricting single-use plastic products and providing incentives for reusable, biodegradable and bioplastics products and containers
  - Institutionalizing a system for using reusable items (incentives, infrastructure, lifestyle and etc.)
  - Reducing the use of packaging materials at the product distribution stage and regulating secondary or repackaging of primarily packaged products
  - Promoting green public procurement, preferential purchase of products in the public sector with reduced environmental burden
  
- **Preventing Leakage to the Environment: enhancing circularity such as increasing the recycling rate, recycled content**

- Circulating waste resources by minimizing landfill and incineration of plastic waste and expanding recycling and reuse
- Improving collection and sorting system of plastic waste through the operation of public waste sorting facilities and recycling facilities at the national and local government levels
- Promoting reuse and recycle by providing incentives
- Incentivizing and developing technologies for high-value recycling

## II. Implementation elements

### 1. Implementation measures

- a) *How to ensure implementation of the instrument at the national level (eg. role national action plans contribute to meeting the objectives and obligations of the instrument?)*
- b) *How to ensure effectiveness of the instrument and have efficient national reporting?*
- c) *Please provide any other relevant proposals or priorities here on implementation measures (for example for scientific and technical cooperation and coordination as well as compliance).*

- **National Action Plans (NAPs)**
  - Each country should develop clear NAPs including a target and a timeline that can facilitate addressing plastic pollution problem.
  - NAPs should cover all stages of the lifecycle of plastics, from production to treatment.
  - NAPs could complement the international legally binding instrument and can include more detailed obligations to address the plastic pollution problem.
  - Although NAPs can be different among countries, it should contribute to increase the sustainability of plastics.
  - Each Party should establish national action plan including detailed implementation plans with periodic performance management and evaluation accordingly.
- **Reporting and Evaluation:** The instrument should include common reporting system with both mandatory and optional components.
  - A common and harmonized reporting format with both mandatory and optional components are necessary
  - Baseline must be measured in order to track and record progress, which will also contribute to establishing an effective evaluation method
  - Specific details, including reporting formats and the reporting and evaluation requirements, can be further adopted in the Conference of the Parties
- **Implementation and Compliance**
  - Effective compliance mechanism is necessary
  - The committee should consider establishing a compliance and implementation committee as a subsidiary body with reference to other MEAs.
- **Research Development**
  - The instrument should encourage the Parties to the instrument to develop research and development, innovation policies and share best practices among Parties

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## 2. Means of Implementation

With respect to means of implementation, document UNEP/PP/INC.1/5 covers the following elements: capacity-building, technical assistance, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and financial assistance.

### ● *What measures will be required to support the implementation of the instrument?*

#### ● **Financial Assistance**

- To support the least developed countries, there is a need to actively utilize existing and all available funding sources including both private and public finance.
- Especially, utilizing the existing Global Environment Facility (GEF) as the financial mechanism for this instrument can be positively considered as it already has the expertise and experience in supporting other MEAs

#### ● **Technical Assistance and Technology Transfer**

- Sharing experience and advanced technologies that increase circularity of plastics among the Parties is very important
- The instrument should include measures that can facilitate technical assistance and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms in areas of, but not limited to, recycling and waste management

## III. Additional input

Please provide any other relevant proposals or priorities here (for example introductory elements; awareness-raising, education and exchange of information; research; stakeholder engagement; institutional arrangements and final provisions).

- Public and private partnership is also essential in addressing the plastic pollution. Multi-stakeholder partnership needs to be encouraged at all stages of the lifecycle, addressing plastic pollution problem
- Awareness-raising through environmental education and campaign can be effective as well.
- It is essential to avoid green-washing. Measures with hidden trade-offs, no or vague scientific proof should be clearly discerned.
- Creating discriminatory and disguised trade barriers needs to be avoided.
- Use of alternative plastics such as biodegradable plastics and bioplastics, especially for products mainly used in compostable environment such as fishing gear and aquaculture items, needs to be encouraged to address plastic pollution.
- It is necessary to develop risk assessment of marine plastic pollution and guidelines to protect marine ecosystem from plastic pollution, and enhance research and development to monitor microplastic pollution in the marine environment

- It is necessary to take effective measures to prevent and reduce ALDFG(abandoned, lost, discarded fishing gear)
- Measures need to be taken to address both sea-based and land-based source marine plastic debris.

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