

Ad-hoc open-ended working group (OEWG) in view of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) on plastic pollution

Saudi Arabia's written submission on recommendations for the organization and sequencing of the work of the INC

Saudi Arabia welcomes the work addressed by the OEWG and supports the efforts initiated to end plastic pollution while stressing on importance of plastics for sustainable development while emphasizing the need to focus on addressing pollution through a circular economy and recycling approach.

(i) Sequencing and Organization of INC

Proposing the following as main elements in the organization of the INC's work:

First, Guiding Principles: The agreement development should be subject to the following guiding principles:

- I. To follow a ***holistic approach*** that takes into accounts the national circumstances and respective capabilities of each country.
- II. ***Flexibility:*** Ensure the necessary flexibility for developing countries.
- III. ***Decisions by consensus:*** Making all possible efforts to reach decisions by consensus and avoid majority voting.
- IV. ***Party-Driven:*** Designing the agreement based on signatories Party needs and priorities, to ensure an inclusive outcome accepted by the global community.
- V. ***Sustainability:*** The agreement recognizes the importance of plastics to achieve sustainable development goals and the continuation of plastic production while ensuring the effective management of plastic waste by relying on circular approaches to emissions and waste management (adoption of circular economy approach).
- VI. ***Avoiding duplication:*** ensuring cooperation, synergy, and coordination with other relevant conventions and instruments.

Second, Objectives: The objective of this agreement should be to address pollution from the use of plastics in end products through technological means for recycling and waste management. Restricting use of plastics or their production should not be in the scope of the agreement.

-General notes:

- It is of paramount importance that all topics receive the same attention and progress in the work to ensure balanced outcomes and compatibility between the different themes.
- The scope of work should include a periodic mechanism to review progress in implementing the agreement to ensure that it does not deviate from the desired goals.
- The importance of supporting research and development in finding technical solutions that adopts circular approaches.

- Encourage sharing information and cooperation among member states.

-Proposed clustering:

Saudi Arabia recommends clustering the discussions into thematic focus areas based on the provisions we foresee in the new instrument while recognizing the necessary interlinkages between them. The two thematic focus areas are:

1. Environmentally sound management and treatment of end-product plastic waste.
2. Environmental and socio-economic impact assessments of the measures pursued through the agreement/instrument.

(ii) Substantive issues which would contribute to preparation of documentation for INC-1, in particular, regarding potential elements of the future instrument as well as priorities, needs, challenges and barriers and overview of national measures;

- Addressing needs to build an integrated waste management infrastructure that linked to recycling, with increased disclosure and transparency.
- Driving technology growth, advanced recycling and materials recovery methodologies, and commitments to help drive investment in the whole value chain on waste collection, sorting, and conversion.
- Help drive standardization around materials feedstock requirements/quality, while exploring promising developments and advancements in collaboration with research institutes.
- Effective planning and investment in the supply chain to cope with the changes and modifications needed to realize circular approaches in materials and emissions, while maintaining food security and the ability to achieve the UN SDGs and global carbon reduction efforts.
- Support research and development and investigate sustainable technical solutions within the value chain for production.
- To emphasis on addressing the consumer aspect, not only plastic production, by urging greater use of modern technical recycling solutions and methods of safe waste disposal.

(iii) The content and considerations for the preparation of the forum

Saudi Arabia is seeking to involve relevant stakeholders from the private sector and think tanks in the multi-stakeholder forum, to highlight solutions and propose future policies that would address plastic pollution