

Plastic Pollution OEWG: Australian statement for inclusion in OEWG meeting report

Organisation and clustering of work

Australia would like to propose that the first INC meeting considers:

- Foundational elements, upon which many other elements will depend, including:
 - the objective
 - any subsidiary goals
 - key definitions
 - reaffirming the general principles
 - refining the scope

The first INC should also commence discussions on other elements that may take several INCs to consider and resolve, and for which it would also be helpful to establish intercessional contact groups:

- Cross cutting issues, including:
 - Stakeholder engagement – linked to the multi-stakeholder forum
 - Interaction with other international instruments
- Complex issues that may take time to discuss and resolve:
 - Australia supports the proposal of Brazil to establish a cluster on financial and technological transfer mechanisms
 - Implementation
- Issues where we need to develop our knowledge or common understanding, such as:
 - Technological advancements and forecasting

Stakeholder engagement

Australia supports maximising opportunities for stakeholder engagement, including the following key stakeholder groups:

- Industry representatives, including:
 - plastic producers
 - industries that are major producers of plastic packaging for their products
 - recyclers
 - plastic commodity traders
 - value chain logistics managers
 - informal waste pickers
- Non-government organisations including representatives of civil society with an interest in the environment and the plastics value chain
- Intergovernmental organisations with an interest in the environment and the plastic value chain
- Indigenous stakeholders
- Researchers with expertise in the plastics value chain and in plastic pollution

We support ensuring that the outcomes of the multi-stakeholder forum are directly relevant and communicated to the INC, and that there is two-way dialogue to ensure that those who will be implementing and impacted by a new international instrument to end plastic pollution have the opportunity to contribute to its development.

Rules of procedure

The Australian Government is committed to working with the international community to end plastic pollution through the negotiation of a new international legally binding instrument. We are eager to complete the Rules of Procedure that will apply to the negotiations on the new instrument. Australia will make every effort to resolve the rule relating to the voting rights of Regional Economic Integration Organisations with interested Members ahead of the first Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) meeting, to ensure the work of the Committee can be progressed quickly.