Proposed response template on written submissions prior to INC-3 (part b)

Potential Areas Identified by the Contact Groups

At its second session, the intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC) requested the secretariat to invite written submissions on:

- Any potential areas for intersessional work compiled by the co-facilitators of the two contact groups[1], to inform the work of INC-3.

The template below was prepared by the secretariat, in consultation with the Chair, and is meant as a guide to assist Members and Observers in preparing their written submissions.

All written submissions must be sent to unep-incplastic.secretariat@un.org. The submissions received will be made available on the INC webpage.

Please note that not all fields in the template need to be answered in the submission.

Deadline for submissions:

I. By **15 August 2023** for written submissions from **observer** organizations.
II. By **15 September 2023** for written submissions from **Members** of the Committee.

[1] Contact Group 1 focused on Section A: Objective(s). Section B: Substantive Obligations; Contact Group 2 focused on Sections C: Means of Implementation. D: Implementation measures. E: Additional matters as contained in part II of the Annex to document UNEP/PP/INC.2/4.

TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSIONS

Name of country (for Members of the committee)	
Name of organization (for observers to the committee)	Compromiso Empresarial para el Reciclaje Colombia
Contact person and contact information for the submission	Laura Reyes director@cempre.org.co
Date of submission	14/08/23

Input on the potential areas of intersessional work to inform the work of INC-3 (following the lists compiled by the co-facilitators of the two contact groups)

Potential areas for intersessional work

The list of potential areas for possible intersessional work compiled by the co-facilitators of the two contact groups at INC-2 is set out below. Members and observers may wish to provide input on one or more of these areas.

Contact group 1:

1. Information on definitions of, e.g. plastics, microplastics, circularity
2. Information is Don criteria, also considering different applications and sectoral requirements, including:
    a. Chemical substances of concern in plastics, (no)
    b. Problematic and avoidable plastic polymers and products and related applications
    c. Design e.g. for circularity, reuse
    d. Substitutes and alternatives to plastic polymers and products
3. Potential substances of concern in plastics, problematic and avoidable plastic polymers and products
4. Potential sources of release of microplastics (applications and sectors).

(Please note: A longer list is included in the co-facilitators report on discussions in contact group 1 [2]. Submissions may also include input on any of the items in that longer list, such as, amongst others, the development of criteria to prioritise problematic and avoidable plastics; the development of targets for the reduction, reuse and repair of problematic and avoidable plastic products; or the guidelines on EPR)

[2] The report can be accessed here: https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/42621/CG1.pdf.

Contact Group 2:

1. To consider the potential role, responsibilities and composition of a science and technical body [to support negotiation and/or implementation of the agreement]
2. To consider potential scope of and guidance for National Action Plans [including optional and/or suggested elements]
3. To identify current provisions within existing MEAs [and other instruments] on cooperation and coordination that could be considered
4. To consider how other MEAs provide for monitoring, and suggest best practice
5. To consider options to define 'technology transfer on mutually agreed terms
6. To further consider how a potential financing mechanism could work [including a new standalone mechanism, a hybrid mechanism, or an existing mechanism]
7. To identify options to mobilise and align private and innovative finance (including in relation to matters at 24(e) and the proposed Global Plastic Pollution Fee (GPPF))
8. To map current funding and finance available [to address plastic pollution] and determine the need for financial support for each Member
9. To identify capacity building and training needs for each Member.

Inputs relating to potential areas for inter-sessional work. Please identify clearly which area your input relates to.

<u>Contact group 1.</u>

Definitions and Common Concepts

To effectively address the issue of plastic waste, it is crucial to establish a shared understanding of key terms and concepts. Inputs could include defining all plastics, microplastics, and circularity alternatives (open and closed), highlighting the need for common language, standards and indicators across different sectors and countries. Proposals might include developing international guidelines or standards for these definitions, as well as creating a database of commonly used terms their meanings and metrics. Priorities should focus on ensuring consistency in communication and data collection, enabling accurate tracking, assessment, and contrast of progress towards sustainability goals.

Criteria, Applications, and Sectoral Requirements

Establishing clear criteria, applications, and sectoral requirements is essential for identifying problematic and avoidable plastic polymers and products, as well as designing sustainable alternatives. Inputs could comprise national databases for Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), eco-design, and innovation, providing valuable information on the environmental impacts of various plastic materials and products, as well as enabling conditions to successfully achieve circularity, including technology and infrastructure at the local level. Advanced recycling technologies, for instance, can significantly improve the quality and quantity of recycled plastics, reducing the need for virgin plastics and lowering emissions associated with production. Similarly, robust infrastructure for waste collection, sorting, and processing is essential for ensuring that

plastic waste is properly managed and diverted from landfills and oceans. Moreover, digital technologies like blockchain and the Internet of Things (IoT) can enhance traceability and transparency throughout the plastic value chain, allowing for better monitoring and control of plastic flow. Proposals may include developing sector-specific guidelines for sustainable material selection and waste reduction, as well as creating platforms for sharing best practices and knowledge exchange between industries. Priorities should center around harmonizing criteria and standards across regions and sectors, facilitating the development of sustainable products and services that meet diverse customer needs.

Substances of Concern and Problematic Plastics

Identifying potential substances of concern in plastics, including problematic and avoidable plastic polymers and products, is critical for minimizing environmental and human health risks. Inputs could encompass scientific research and data on the properties and behaviors of different plastic materials on certain environments, as well as their potential environmental and health impacts. Proposals might include developing lists of substances of very high concern (SVHC) or substances of concern (SoC) for priority action, along with strategies for phasing out or replacing them with safer alternatives. Priorities should focus on mitigating the most pressing environmental and health risks associated with plastic waste, while encouraging innovation and adoption of safer, more sustainable materials and production processes.

Contact group 2.

Science and Technical Body

To ensure the effective implementation of the agreement, it is crucial to establish a dedicated science and technical body. This body should be responsible for providing expert advice and guidance to parties on issues related to mobilizing from plastic pollution and coordinating efforts to achieve plastic circularity, its status, advance, and potential solutions. The composition and structure of the body should be defined, including the number of members, their experience, qualifications, and the length of their term. The body's specific roles and responsibilities should also be determined, such as conducting research, analyzing data, and providing recommendations on policies and technologies according to the market, the specific location of the problem, and seeking feasibility and sustainability of the alternatives. To ensure the body's effectiveness, it is important to provide adequate resources and financial sustainability model as well as ensure a transparent and inclusive decision-making process that allows for input from all relevant stakeholders. Some potential solutions against plastic pollution that the body may consider include implementing extended producer responsibility, promoting circular economy approaches, developing biodegradable alternatives to traditional plastics, and improving waste management systems.

National Action Plans

National Action Plans are a critical component of the agreement, as they outline the steps that each country will take to address plastic pollution. To ensure the success of these plans, it is important to develop a template or guidelines that include core elements such as targets, timelines, and metrics for measuring progress including on social, biodiversity protection and climate risk reduction targets. Countries should also be given the flexibility to tailor their plans to their unique circumstances and priorities. Collaboration and coordination among countries can help share best practices and lessons learned, leading to more effective implementation. It is essential to ensure that National Action Plans align with the overall objectives of the agreement and contribute to achieving its goals. Clear guidance and

support should be provided to countries in developing and implementing their plans, while encouraging ambition and leadership in setting targets and acting against plastic pollution.

Mobilizing Finance

Mobilizing finance is a vital aspect of combating plastic pollution. A comprehensive financing strategy should be developed to leverage public and private sources to support efforts to increase plastic circularity and prevent waste generation. Innovative financing mechanisms, such as carbon pricing or green bonds, can be used to attract private investment. Additionally, a global fund or facility could be established to provide financial assistance to countries for plastic pollution reduction projects. To ensure the effectiveness of these mechanisms, it is important to promote transparency, accountability, and efficiency. Significant financial resources must be mobilized to support efforts to combat plastic pollution, especially in low- and middle-income countries. Private sector engagement in sustainable plastic management should also be encouraged, ensuring that financing mechanisms align with the goals of the agreement.

Capacity Building and Training

Effective implementation of the agreement requires sufficient capacity building and training for all member countries. Needs assessments should be conducted to identify capacity gaps, and a comprehensive capacity building and training program should be developed accordingly. This program should address the needs of all member countries and provide training and technical assistance to enhance their ability to monitor and report on plastic pollution. Partnerships with international organizations and institutions can be established to leverage their expertise and resources. It is crucial to ensure that all member countries have access to the necessary capacity building and training resources. Targeted support should be provided to countries with limited capacities or resources to build their institutional and technical capabilities. South-South cooperation and peer-to-peer learning should also be fostered to share best practices and experiences among countries.