PREPARATION FOR INC 1

ON INTERNATIONALLY BINDING INSTRUMENT ON PLASTIC POLLUTION INCL. IN THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

21 NOVEMBER 2022

BACKGROUND FOR THE NEGOTIATION OF THE INTERNATIONALLY BINDING AGREEMENT TO END PLASTIC POLLUTION

On March 2022, Head of States, Environment Ministers and representatives from 175 countries endorsed a Resolution 5/14 at the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) in Nairobi to negotiate an internationally binding agreement to end plastic pollution by the end of 2024, after which it will be adopted and opened for signature at a Conference of the Plenipotentiaries (COP) in 2025.

The resolution addresses plastic pollution in all environments through a comprehensive approach addressing the full lifecycle of plastic, its production, design and disposal.

In UNEA Resolution 5/14, governments requested UNEP Executive Director to:

- Convene an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) with the mandate to develop the new global agreement on plastic pollution, including the marine environment, commencing its work during the second half of 2022; and
- Convene an open-ended working group (OEWG) to prepare discussions at the INC on Rules and Procedures of the INC and recommendations for timelines of the INC meetings and the sequencing of work for the INC process.

SUBMISSIONS FROM SOME MEMBER STATES - UPSTREAM

Key industrial activities upstream phase:

The extraction of fossil fuels to produce plastics (oil and gas industries);

The use of alternative feedstocks (e.g., bio-based feedstocks, recycled content) for production;

The production process of petrochemical industries producing plastics

The submissions by some Member States highlights the need for:

- Measures to **reduce virgin plastics**;
- Incentives to encourage the use of recycled plastic materials produced at national level
- The **design and manufacture of plastic and plastic-containing products**
- **Responsible and sustainable consumption**,

SUBMISSIONS FROM SOME MEMBER STATES - MIDSTREAM

- The **design and manufacture of plastic and plastic-containing products**

- **Responsible and sustainable consumption**, especially the environmental, social and economic impacts of the use of plastics and the need for sustainable consumption of plastics by private consumers, public procurers, business and industry.

Midstream phase of the plastic life cycle needs and priorities

Identifying problematic and unnecessary products and packaging that should be eliminated through product design;

Plastics design measures, from the establishment of design criteria to the implementation of measures that eliminate or reduce harmful, hazardous or unnecessary plastics;

Extended producer responsibility policies and schemes;

Removing hazardous chemicals used as additives in plastics that pose risks to human health, and the need to innovate and develop more sustainable alternatives;

Labelling systems for products to improve transparency and traceability throughout the supply chain regarding the type of plastic as well as other chemicals and additives used, and to enable correct disposal, including remanufacturing or recycling;

Recognising the importance of trade in the plastics value chain and the need for the clear identification and tracking of plastics

Midstream phase of the plastic life cycle needs and priorities

- Recognising the **importance of trade in the plastics** value chain and the need for the clear identification and tracking of plastics;
- An “international risk assessment framework that considers the multidimensionality of plastic and microplastic particles
- A system for **compiling data on plastics material flow** and balance throughout the life cycle of plastics at the national, regional and global levels;
- “**Good science”** to enhance the distribution and trade of plastic products;
- A scientific body for decision-making, with “scientific decision-making to include (a) parameters, (b) a pollution standard index, (c) sampling procedures and (d) laboratory testing

Downstream needs and priorities

- Measures that **ensure the safe, proper and environmentally sound collection, management and disposal of plastic waste** and other types of waste containing plastics while enhancing recyclability and creating a more circular value chain for plastics;
- Measures to address the **transboundary nature** of plastic pollution;
- A mechanism for **tracing and controlling illegal trade**, dumping and transportation of plastic waste and its floating through sea water currents;
- Improving the **informal sector's links to industrial** value chains, including recognition of human rights;
- Improving the repair culture.

AMCEN KEY MESSAGES - Africa

Priorities and Needs - Decision 18/2

- Recognising the need to include harmonised, legally **binding global measures across the full life cycle** of plastics in the global instrument, including measures to:

a) **eliminate** plastic materials and products that can be **avoided and/or substituted** with environmentally sound alternatives;

b) Ensure **circularity standards and requirements for plastic materials and products** that cannot be eliminated or substituted; and

c) **Safely collect, manage, and treat** plastic materials and products that cannot be eliminated, substituted, or circulated,

AMCEN KEY MESSAGES Africa Priorities and Needs – Decision 18/2

- Consider **full life cycle of plastic to achieve sustainable production and consumption** of plastics.
- **Developing harmonised, legally binding global measures <u>including voluntary approaches</u>** across the full life cycle of plastics
- **Plastics design and to eliminate or minimise waste** taking into consideration national capacities and priorities, while ensuring coherence and coordination of activities undertaken by existing regional and international instruments
- **Prioritize the ban on illegal trafficking and shipment** of plastic waste
- **Promoting sustainable product design through global sustainability criteria** and standards and eliminating **harmful chemicals in plastic**, ensuring transparency across the value chain.
- **Promoting the environmentally sound management** of plastic waste, in line with the **waste hierarchy**

AMCEN KEY MESSAGES -

Africa Priorities and Needs- Decision 18/2

- **Dedicated workstreams for different sources of plastic pollution** to compel actions **across the value chain** and commit ourselves to establishing an adaptive framework with mechanisms to strengthen commitments
- Commitment **towards sustainable product design and use**, in line with the principles of a circular economy and resource efficiency, and to promote transparency of and restrictions on harmful additives and chemicals.
- **Environmentally sound management of plastic waste**, in line with the **waste hierarchy**, by prioritizing prevention and reuse before recycling, recovery and disposal and extending producer responsibility to waste management and support the development of provisions to facilitate the participation of workers under informal
- **National reporting covering each stage of the lifecycle of plastics to inform policies** and priorities and facilitate the assessment of the implementation and effectiveness of the instrument, as well its role in **supporting the monitoring of plastic pollution** in the environment and its evolution and cooperative settings to ensure a just transition

COLLECTION	To prioritise efforts aimed at preventing leakage of plastic into the environment and that enable universal access to waste collection.	Safe collection, management and disposal: minimising the mismanagement and leakage of plastic products at the end-of-life that cannot be eliminated, substituted or circulated
AWARENESS	Education, awareness and training: Society needs to be educated on the benefits of plastics and the need for proper waste management. The link between all waste streams and the impact on the environment must be understood. There is a lack of understanding and huge volumes of misinformation in the media.	Faith communities play a role in implementation through its value and reach which contributes to awareness raising, behaviour change, research and advocacy.

CIRCULAR ECONOMY	To ensure plastic products are valued for their contribution to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and are sustainably produced, used, and recovered in a circular economy.	Circular approaches: minimising the leakage risk of the plastic products that cannot be eliminated or substituted, and ensuring they are circulated and maintained at their highest value in the economy, through measures such as global requirements on designs and standards—including transparent labelling, design for recyclability, traceability; minimum recycled content; and accountability mechanisms—such as deposit-return schemes, recycling targets, and reporting.
INFRASTRUCTURE AND TECHNOLOGY	The development of an international agreement addressing the challenge of plastic waste and marine plastic debris through sustainable consumption and production, design and technology innovation, and infrastructure investment.	Encourage product design standards, technologies and infrastructure to safely circulate plastic items through reuse, effective recycling and substitution with fit-for-purpose compostable alternatives.

COLLABORATION	Collaboration between Government, Industry and Society is critical for the successful	The complexity of the plastic pollution challenge requires multi-stakeholder interventions and coordinated action to address failures across the full plastics life cycle. Therefore, an inclusive stakeholder engagement process is required to ensure the voices of all relevant stakeholder across the plastics value chain is considered, especially those who are most vulnerable to changes in the space such as the informal waste sector.
FUNDING AND SUPPORT	The approach of common but differentiated responsibilities to solving the global problem is supported. Developing Countries does not have the resources or the funding to implement a Global Plastic Treaty. This must be made available to developing countries in order to implement National Action Plans. If not then it will be very difficult to implement the Global Plastics Treaty.	Financial and interpretation support in all negotiation spaces (not limited to plenary) and beyond the UN languages, depending on the groups participating should be made available with special attention to waste-pickers

PENALTIES	To act against littering and careless discarding of waste, illegal dumping and the mismanagement of waste.	
SETTING A TARGET	Establishing a targeted goal to ensure access to proper waste management and eliminate leakage of plastic into the ocean. We believe this goal provides a clear objective for countries, industry, and stakeholders. Aligning with governments that share this goal is a priority.	
ELIMINATION		Elimination: minimising the production and consumption of high-risk, unnecessary, and leakage-prone plastic products and materials that can readily be eliminated or substituted by environmentally-sound alternatives, through measures such as global bans or phase-outs of their production, sale and trade. The South African Plastics Pact have already identified a list of 12 items to phase out by the end of 2022.

FLEXIBILITY OF THE TREATY	Global Plastics Regulations: Efforts to regulate plastics globally through the development of regulatory standards, product-specific obligations, or creation of international sustainability criteria will undermine our vision of eliminating plastic pollution. Flexibility is important for countries to adapt their regulatory framework and prevent adverse environmental, health, and socioeconomic impacts.	
RESEARCH	International and local LCA research has proved that plastics is one of the best fit for purpose environmentally friendly materials. Leakage of plastics products must be prevented by improved waste management services.	More research is needed to quantify the economic, environmental and social contribution of the informal waste sector to further inform negotiations and subsequent policies.
REDUCE	Production Limits: Globally mandated controls should not be imposed on production and consumption of plastics or plastic products. Impacts of proposed measures must be assessed to reduce regrettable substitutions.	Reduce plastic items placed on the formal and informal market.

CONCLUSION

- **Common but differentiated responsibilities** on means of implementation (funding resources): What is the cost of substitution?
- Support for **plastic science, research and development**
- Ensuring support for **plastic waste collection** and recycling through appropriate Means of Implementation for developing countries to achieve SDG 12
- Ensuring support and **protection of livelihoods** (recycling and waste pickers) incl. support for waste pickers for participation in the INC process
- **Multi-stakeholder** (Government, industry incl. informal waste pickers, society and researchers) action and collaboration across the entire life cycle
- Recognising the importance of **trade in the plastics** value chain
- Awareness, **behavior change**, education and training of all stakeholders
- **Incentives, Disincentives, Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement**


Thank You