



**SOUTH AFRICA'S NEGOTIATING POSITION TO
SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR ENGAGEMENT AT THE
2ND SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL
NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE (INC 2) ON
INTERNATIONAL LEGALLY BINDING INSTRUMENT
ON PLASTIC POLLUTION INCLUDING MARINE
ENVIRONMENTS PARIS, FRANCE FROM 29 MAY –
02 JUNE 2023**

25 May 2023



**forestry, fisheries
& the environment**

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



PURPOSE

To brief stakeholders about:

- South Africa's negotiating position to serve as the basis for engagement at the 2nd session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC2) on internationally binding instrument on plastic pollution including marine environments to be held in Paris, France from 29 May to 02 June 2023.



BACKGROUND FOR THE NEGOTIATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LEGALLY BINDING INSTRUMENT TO END PLASTIC POLLUTION

In 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 international legally 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 1st session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC1) on internationally binding instrument on plastic pollution including marine environment was held in Punta Del Este, Uruguay from 28 November to 02 December 2022.

INC-1 requested the Secretariat to prepare for consideration by the committee at its second session a document with potential options for elements towards an international legally binding instrument.

INSTRUMENT'S OBJECTIVE POSITION

1. Issue:

The objective of the instrument could be aligned to the mandate from UNEA5.2.

Response:

To eliminate plastic pollution, including leakage, in order to protect the environment, human health and livelihoods from the impacts of plastic pollution through a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life-cycle of plastics.



CONTROL MEASURES POSITION

2. Issue: Clarification of the roadmap that inform the direction on addressing plastic pollution

Response: Preparation of National Action Plans with short, medium and long-term objectives and targets on eliminating plastic pollution.
Harmonised definitions and international technical standards.
Monitoring and Reporting against National Action Plans with emphasis on tracking increased use of recyclate.



CONTROL MEASURES POSITION

3. Issue: Increased leakage and pollution caused by plastic products

Response: Improvement of access to waste collection services;
Identification and/or Prioritisation/Listing of high priority plastic polymers, additives and products informed by credible evidence;
Extended Producer Responsibility for prioritised products;
Increase recycle demand through incentives.

4. Issue: Concern on potential negative socio-economic implications of changes that could be brought by the legally binding instrument.

Response: Assessment of socio-economic implications; and
Inclusive participation and transition for the informal sector and the affected industries.



CONTROL MEASURES POSITION

5. Issue: Concern about hazardous additives in plastic products that pose a risk to circularity.

Response: Labelling and disclosure standards for prioritised products;
Product design and circularity standards; and
Restriction and/or banning of certain chemical additives
(e.g. BPA, brominated flame retardants).

6. Issue: Concern about environmental health impacts of certain plastic waste management practices and technologies

Response: Promoting Environmentally Sound Management of Waste.
Prohibition of open dumping and open burning of plastic waste.

7. Issue: The indiscriminate reduction of virgin plastic production could inhibit growth.

Response: The position is to negotiate for reduction of virgin plastic production for specified “problematic and unnecessary” plastics products (e.g. plastic carrier bags) subject to domestic NAPs.



IMPLEMENTATION MEANS POSITION

8. Issue: It is necessary to guard against a blanket approach as different countries have different capacities and thus a differentiated approach based on Common But Differentiated Responsibilities is necessary.

Response: Strong implementation mechanisms covering technical and financial resources prioritising developing countries through:
Provision of financial resources, technical assistance, technology transfer and capacity building.

Funding support for development of National Action Plans and for Research, Development & Innovation to support substitution and/or alternatives linked to gradual elimination of problematic and unnecessary products.



IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES POSITION

9. Issue: Unfair competition over recyclate markets

Response: Promotion of clean collected plastic waste

Recycling standards and certification programs to promote fair and equitable access recyclate markets.

10. Issue: Credibility of tracking progress

Response: Establish clear governance and accountability instruments for monitoring, reporting and verification. Reporting on progress against meeting National Action Plan targets on periodical basis.

Support for the transition through supporting Research, Development and Innovation to improve the recycling of the necessary “difficult-to-recycle-plastics” and to design out problematic polymers.



RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Stakeholders note:

- South Africa's negotiating position to serve as the basis for engagement at the 2nd session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC2) on internationally binding instrument on plastic pollution including marine environment to be held in Paris, France from 29 May to 02 June 2023.



Thank You



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