



## **APRA Response to the Online Consultation: Canada's Voice - International Legally Binding Agreement on Plastic Pollution – April 3, 2023**

### **1. What should be included in the objective(s) of the agreement? Select all that apply.**

- An overarching aim to end plastic pollution
- A call to protect the environment from plastic pollution and its adverse impacts
- A call to protect human health from plastic pollution and its adverse impacts
- A reference to the need for a lifecycle approach
- A reference to the need for a circular economy approach
- Mechanisms to facilitate financing to support investments in recycling infrastructure and capacity building.

### **2. Rank the importance of measures within these following areas for consideration in the agreement.**

5. Measures to eliminate or restrict unnecessary and problematic plastic products and chemical substances (e.g. plastic products, polymers, or chemicals and additives in plastics that pose a risk to environmental or human health, or make it difficult to recycle) to reduce the amount entering the market and prevent pollution
6. Measures to reduce the supply of primary plastics (i.e., virgin plastics not made of recycled materials)
  1. Measures to enable sustainable consumption and production and support circular systems to reduce waste in the first place and recirculate the value of needed plastics in the economy (e.g. through reuse, refill, repair, and recycling)
  2. Measures to increase the collection, sorting and environmentally sound end-of-life management of plastics
  4. Measures to reduce the release of plastic pollution, including microplastics, to the environment across all stages of the plastics lifecycle (manufacturing, transportation, consumption, disposal)
  3. Measures to support environmentally sound clean-up of existing plastic pollution



**3. Of the following potential measures to reduce plastic pollution and support the transition to a circular plastics economy, select the top five that you believe are the most valuable for consideration in the agreement. Rank them in order of priority.**

1. Circularity or sustainability design criteria or principles
2. Targets for circularity measures (e.g., recycled content targets)
3. Extended producer responsibility programs
4. Guidance for circularity measures
5. Environmentally sound removal of plastic pollution

Some countries and stakeholders have suggested that each country should be able to decide which specific measures to apply to reduce plastic pollution, while others have called for certain measures to be defined globally and applied equally by all countries. This would mean, for example, each country deciding which problematic plastic products to ban, versus all countries banning the same list of products, which would then be taken off the global marketplace.

In your opinion, which types of measures should be defined globally so they apply to all countries equally, and which should be determined by each country? Select one option for the level of commitment per potential measure (i.e. one selection for each row of the table).

	<b>National (determined at the national level)</b>	<b>Global (determined at the global level)</b>	<b>Both: National &amp; Global</b>	<b>Not Needed</b>	<b>I don't know</b>
<b>Elimination or restriction of unnecessary or problematic plastic products and chemical substances</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Circularity or sustainability design criteria or principles</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Product standards and requirements</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	<b>National (determined at the national level)</b>	<b>Global (determined at the global level)</b>	<b>Both: National &amp; Global</b>	<b>Not Needed</b>	<b>I don't know</b>
<b>Labelling and harmonized definitions</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Targets for circularity measures (e.g. recycled content targets)</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Guidance for circularity measures</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Extended producer responsibility programs</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Measures to prevent and reduce the release of plastic pollution, including microplastics, to the environment</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Environmentally sound removal of plastic pollution</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4. Some countries and stakeholders have suggested that each country should be able to decide which specific measures to apply to reduce plastic pollution, while others have called for certain measures to be defined globally and applied equally by all countries. This would mean, for example, each country deciding which problematic plastic products to ban, versus all countries banning the same list of products, which would then be taken off the global marketplace.

In your opinion, which types of measures should be defined globally so they apply to all countries equally, and which should be determined by each country? Select one option for the level of commitment per potential measure (i.e. one selection for each row of the table)

Your choices

Eliminate or restrict unnecessary and problematic plastic products and chemical substances (e.g. plastic products, polymers, or chemicals and additives in plastics that pose a risk to environmental or human health, or make it difficult to recycle)

Enable sustainable consumption and production of plastic products and support the creation of circular systems

Implement and report on national measures that prevent, reduce, and remove in an environmentally sound manner plastic pollution from land and aquatic-based sources

Facilitate effective national action plans to strengthen implementation of actions at the local and national level, in alignment with the agreement objectives and measures

Develop strong reporting frameworks to inform the implementation of the agreement and monitor its performance

Support the implementation of the agreement through finance, technical assistance and capacity building

#### **Your ranking**

1. Enable sustainable consumption and production of plastic products and support the creation of circular systems
2. Implement and report on national measures that prevent, reduce, and remove in an environmentally sound manner plastic pollution from land and aquatic-based sources
3. Support the implementation of the agreement through finance, technical assistance and capacity building

#### **5. How important do you think it is for each Party of the agreement to have a national action plan that considers their local and national circumstances? Select one response.**

- very important

#### **6. What reporting components are needed to support the implementation of the agreement and measure its progress? Select all that apply.**

X Common metrics on chemicals and additives in plastics across their lifecycle

X Common metrics on plastic production and flows (e.g. how much is made and used, where does it end up, etc.)

X Common metrics on plastic pollution

X Reporting at a common frequency

X Transparent access to a country (party) reports

Other: For “Common metrics on plastic product” above, include “use of alternative feedstocks”. For “Common metrics on plastic pollution” above, include “sources and types”. Include “common metrics on recycling infrastructure, recycling rates, and access to recycling (e.g., curbside recycling systems, etc.)”

**7. How important do you think improving global education and awareness-raising on the sustainable management of plastics and the impacts of plastic pollution will be in supporting effective implementation of the agreement?**

- very important

**8. How can the agreement improve collaboration by all actors?**

A global agreement creates a mechanism for reporting and accountability and brings all players onto common ground. Creating a circular economy for plastics – in which plastic products are reused and recycled instead of discarded – will help achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including goals on climate action and life below water. Plastics (and other materials) should be used for as long as feasible and then repurposed to prevent them from becoming waste. A global agreement can help develop supply chains as well as robust waste collection and recycling infrastructure that supports local/regional solutions to creating a circular economy and ending plastic waste. A global agreement should focus on supporting the creation of local and regional systems to collect plastic (and other) waste and utilize its inherent value through recycling, reuse, or repurposing. Communities will need political support, technical expertise, and funding to develop the most appropriate solutions tailored to the local/regional situation, in particular the role of the informal sector.

To help zero out plastic waste and accelerate a circular economy for plastics under a global agreement, multiple stakeholders will need to take collective action and act in partnership. By bringing together industry, civil society, researchers and academics, and governments as part of the negotiating process, we will build a shared understanding of this complex issue. This will ensure that we bring together the best information and data, build understanding and awareness of multiple perspectives, and help build and deliver enabling policies that will allow the agreement to succeed in its ambition. These actors/stakeholders should be able to inform the process throughout the INC negotiations including during the intersessional period through effective mechanisms to ensure fair and equal participation. Many of these stakeholders, industry in particular, have technical expertise that can help build a more holistic understanding for government negotiators on plastics more broadly.