

**Written submissions prior to INC-3 (Part B) : Potential Areas Identified by the Contact Groups :**  
***Development of targets for the reduction, reuse and repair for plastic products***

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**This input relates to discussions in Contact Group 1 and the proposed area for intersessional work:**

**Development of targets for the reduction, reuse and repair for plastic products**

**Introduction**

Despite significant investment from national governments over many decades, only 9% of plastic waste is recycled globally, while plastic consumption has quadrupled over the past 30 years. As a result, the volumes of plastic flowing into our oceans will triple by 2040. The evidence is clear, we cannot rely on recyclability anymore. Thus, the negotiations should move forward to explore genuine upstream solutions such as reduction and prevention measures as first priorities. Good examples for those are systems for reuse and refill.

During INC-2 there was discussion on Core Obligation 7 : Encouraging reduce, reuse and repair of plastic products and packaging outlined in the options paper developed by the Secretariat. In their interventions some member states supported setting targets for reduction, reuse and repair of plastic products ([option 16a](#)) , taking into account national circumstances.

We strongly support targets and indicators on reuse and repair – accompanied by harmonised approaches for regular reporting obligations to monitor implementation. We propose that the new international legally binding instrument (ILBI) places emphasis on reducing resource use and preventing plastic waste by requiring parties to set binding targets for increasing the amount of single-use products that are displaced by recognised reuse systems, with an initial focus on high-impact categories such as packaging. The ILBI should also promote refill ‘on the go’ or at home as a practice to reduce resource use and waste and explore legal approaches for guidance to support this. Consumer awareness and engagement would be another element to boost the effectiveness of reuse policy measures once the necessary infrastructure and incentives are in place.

Overall and sector-specific reuse targets, together with targets to phase down plastic production, bans on single use plastics, and bans on plastic polymers and chemicals of concern, would work harmoniously to enshrine the [zero] waste hierarchy in the treaty and protect human and environmental health.

Furthermore, in order to incentivise and maximise the efficiency of the reuse systems, they should be coupled with take-back schemes for reusable products which will help both to cut CO2 emissions and reduce waste by ensuring high return rates.

Given limited negotiation time to explore the potential scope of targets and other obligations related to reuse at INC-2, we recommend intersessional work takes place between INC-3 and 4 to further develop the potential elements for inclusion in the treaty text, with a placeholder for reuse noted in the zero draft text at INC-3 while this work is undertaken, whether as a standalone provision or incorporated into obligations on production, safe circularity or waste management.

### **Reuse Priorities for Intersessional Work**

**The intersessional work should focus on the following initial priority areas:**

- Further consideration of targets and baselines for reuse across sectors, with an initial focus on high impact categories where reuse systems already exist, such as packaging, and discussion of how to align plastic reduction targets with reuse increase targets as part of the obligations in the agreement.
- Exploring approaches for setting clear and enforceable definitions for reuse, refill and repair, which are commonly interchangeable or misused - making clear that these apply to products and systems and not materials - e.g. 'recycled content' is not reuse.
- Developing minimum design criteria for reuse systems: this would include design criteria for toxic-free reusable products as well as for the processes (e.g. collection, washing), mechanisms and infrastructure needed for reuse systems to operate effectively and safely.
- Identifying essential elements for national implementation of effective reuse systems and related capacity building and technology transfer requirements.
- Developing guidelines or requirements on the participation of the informal sector in reuse systems, as well as in repair initiatives, including consultation of relevant stakeholders on just transition from the linear plastics economy to a reuse economy to enable just transitions

**To support the work of Contact Group 2 the intersessional work should also include:**

- Identifying complementary options for the financing of reuse systems.

- Financial considerations for scaling reuse systems could include, inter alia, Extended Producer Responsibility schemes that incentivise reuse, setting up effective take-back systems that enable and incentivise the take-back of reusable packaging and guarantee high return rates, internalisation of the environmental costs of plastic products and packaging by pricing in negative externalities through taxes, levies and other fiscal measures, and tax breaks, as well as direct funding to incentivise the scaling of reuse infrastructures such as initial capital investments and OPEX.