



GAIA submission: Part B - Input on the potential areas of intersessional work to inform the INC-3: A roadmap for intersessional work

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A roadmap for intersessional work

GAIA recommends the following approach to the list of potential areas for possible intersessional work compiled by the co-facilitators of the two INC-2 contact groups. Intersessional work must **prioritize upstream measures**, starting with the package of measures for a phasedown of plastic production to sustainable levels:

- **Plastic production freeze and phasedown targets and schedules** that ensure the protection of human rights for current and future generations, and the preservation of safe and just planetary boundaries.
- A **moratorium on new plastic production capacity** as a way to begin the freeze.
- **Removal of subsidies that facilitate the production and consumption of plastics**, including fossil fuel extraction subsidies.
- A **global plastics tax**
- Work on **avoidable and high-risk plastic products, and materials**, as well as on **chemicals and polymers of concern**, focusing on:
 - Creating a **robust, science-based process for setting criteria and developing non-exhaustive lists** in treaty annexes
 - Considering **rapid action upon treaty entry into force for products, materials and chemicals already controlled** at the national, regional or global levels, either through bans or market-based measures.
- **Criteria and process for granting essential use exemptions**, to ensure that governments are able to provide for their societies' critical functions until alternatives are available.

A second priority for intersessional work is defining **criteria and processes to identify and scale up sustainable alternative systems, such as reuse**, as well as **sustainable alternative materials**, that enable a global plastics phasedown while protecting human rights and respecting planetary boundaries.

A third priority is **work on a financial mechanism**, since adequate financing will be a key component for treaty compliance and effectiveness, particularly from developing states who are often most burdened by the plastic pollution crisis.

The INC may also wish to allocate intersessional time to consider the role, responsibilities and composition of **scientific and technical subsidiary bodies** free from conflicts of interest with businesses in the plastics value chain. These bodies must include equitable and appropriate representation of Indigenous science and knowledge systems given the unique contributions they offer in ending plastic pollution, including circular systems, material, relational, ecological, conservation, economic, and intergenerational knowledge. The speedy establishment of such bodies upon adoption of the treaty would allow them to develop scientific and technical inputs needed on technical annexes to phasedown plastic production to sustainable levels, and minimize harm to the environment and human health from plastics that remain in circulation, and scale up only those sustainable alternative systems and materials that respect human rights and safe and just planetary boundaries.

In contrast, several other themes do not justify dedicated intersessional work at this juncture. They may be best dealt with during work on related control measures, or may be best served by a future treaty annex, particularly where they may require input by treaty subsidiary scientific and technical bodies. Scientific and technical input will be especially needed on evolving issues that need periodic scientific assessments or technical updates. These include:

- **Definitions:** a glossary could be adopted as a future treaty annex, grouping definitions and defining criteria from different control measures. Until then, key working definitions may be discussed in the context of related control measures;
- **Criteria and lists of substances of concern** in plastics, including plastic polymers of concern;
- **List of products likely to contain intentionally-added microplastics**, by application and sector;
- **List of sources of secondary microplastics releases**, by application and sector;
- **Criteria on environmentally-sound plastic waste management**, that must be included in a treaty annex so they can be developed and periodically updated by the treaty's future scientific or technical body;
- **EPR guidelines** could be adopted at future COPs, taking care not to duplicate existing [guidelines under the Basel Convention](#);
- **Guidance on national action plans**;
- **Mapping Member States' financing needs** is premature since needs will depend on what control measures are agreed and the corresponding gaps to ensure compliance;
- **Identifying capacity-building and training needs, defining technology transfer on mutually agreed terms**;
- **Compiling best practice for monitoring of plastic pollution.**

GAIA is a global network of grassroots groups and national and regional alliances representing more than 1000 organizations from 92 countries. We envision a just, zero waste world built on respect for ecological limits and community rights, where people are free from the burden of toxic pollution, and resources are sustainably conserved, not burned or dumped. We work to catalyze a global shift towards environmental justice by strengthening grassroots social movements that advance solutions to waste and pollution.