

## Proposed response on the potential options for elements towards an international legally binding instrument

[unep-incplastic.secretariat@un.org](mailto:unep-incplastic.secretariat@un.org)

Name of country (for Members of the committee)	
Name of organization (for stakeholders to the committee)	Expanded Polystyrene Australia
Contact person and contact information for the submission	Becher Townshend Executive Director Expanded Polystyrene Australia <a href="mailto:bechert@fontpr.com.au">bechert@fontpr.com.au</a> Level 11, 188 Collins Street TAS 7000 Australia Simon Pickett President Expanded Polystyrene Australia <a href="mailto:simonp@polyfoam.com.au">simonp@polyfoam.com.au</a> Level 11, 188 Collins Street TAS 7000 Australia
Date	4 <sup>th</sup> January 2023

### I. Substantive elements

#### 1. Objective(s)

*a) What objective(s) could be set out in the instrument?*

Proposed Objective:

Responsible handling of plastics waste to minimise environmental impacts.

#### 2. Core obligations, control measures and voluntary approaches

*a) What core obligations, control measures and voluntary approaches would provide a comprehensive approach to addressing plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, throughout the full life cycle in line with the future objective(s) of the instrument?*

Local commitments to product stewardship by Government and industry participants. Commitment to circular economy principals enshrined and full lifecycle analysis developed to understand cost and benefits of plastics use. In addition, a clear commitment to appropriate handling mechanisms for plastic waste.

## II. Implementation elements

### 1. Implementation measures

- a) How to ensure implementation of the instrument at the national level (eg. role national action plans contribute to meeting the objectives and obligations of the instrument?)*
- b) How to ensure effectiveness of the instrument and have efficient national reporting?*
- c) Please provide any other relevant proposals or priorities here on implementation measures (for example for scientific and technical cooperation and coordination as well as compliance).*

The development of workable solutions that offer opportunities for industry to work with Governments on appropriate measures to reduce plastic pollution through the development of clear guidelines for its management. A simplistic approach of banning product, will simply transfer the problems elsewhere.

### 2. Means of Implementation

With respect to means of implementation, document UNEP/PP/INC.1/5 covers the following elements: capacity-building, technical assistance, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and financial assistance.

- a) What measures will be required to support the implementation of the instrument?*

We would seek to work in a voluntary capacity to achieve the aims of the instrument once agreed

## III. Additional input

Please provide any other relevant proposals or priorities here (for example introductory elements; awareness-raising, education and exchange of information; research; stakeholder engagement; institutional arrangements and final provisions).

It is clear there is very little understanding of where Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) is being used and what benefits it offers from an environmental point of view. EPS in Australia reduces CO2 emissions generated by concrete through its' use as a void filler, lowers carbon footprint through being a lightweight packaging product for the transport of goods and reduces food waste through providing strong insulation qualities. Any instrument developed must weigh up these benefits against environmental issues when determining actions moving forward and be developed with a view to providing clear leadership in the responsible handling of EPS waste.