

UNEP/PP/INC.2/4Annex

Potential options for elements towards an international legally binding instrument, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastics as called for by United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/14

II. Potential options for elements towards an international legally binding instrument, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastics as called for by United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/14B. Core obligations, control measures and voluntary approaches (including annexes, if any)

4. Possible core obligation: reducing microplastics

On point 13 under ISDE understand that (a) and (b) have to be clearly approached as separated items due the fact that “**intentional produce and use**” nano-microplastics are two very different issues.

In relation to intentional “produce and use” microplastics, ISDE understand that the mention to “**intentional produced and use of nano-microplastics**” is more comprehensive and accurate, in particular because **nano plastics has very different characteristics, environmental fate, behavior and toxicity** that make them different from microplastics.

Proposal:

ISDE understands that due the nature and uses, there should be treated as a separate item (single article or section) dedicated to “**intentional produced and use nano-microplastics**” in the text of the new legally binding treaty.

Fundaments:

-Intentional Produced and use nano-microplastics are included in products of daily use, represents a huge invisible threat for the environment and health because when applied for some uses can *directly stream* in the human body and other living beings and pollute food, water, soil and air.

-Nano plastics, due to their smaller size, have unique physical and chemical properties and should receive special attention.

-Intentional produce nano-microplastics are also design to accomplish a specific task, by example to facilitate and enhance the action and penetration of chemicals (pharmaceuticals, pesticides and fertilizers as well as cosmetics). After they accomplish the task for which they have been designed, when released into the environment they may continue behaving according to these characteristics (now carrying chemicals present in the environment, facilitating their penetration and activity in the living tissues, increasing or changing the toxicity of other pollutants).

On access to information:

In most of the cases this intentional produced and used nano-microplastics are not described in the formulas or informed in the labels, and are not well (or not at all) regulated.

The different sectors that synthesize, produce and use nano-microplastics should inform and facilitate access to the current state of the science/knowledge to clear the way for regulation, particularly for those that flow directly into living beings and the environment (such as pesticides and fertilizers) or the ones applied in uses considered essentials (such as human and veterinary pharmaceuticals).

Workers exposure:

It is important to recognize the toxic exposure of workers of the industries that synthesize, produce or manage products with intentional produced nano-microplastics suffers.

These workers are in the front line and should be adequately informed, trained and protected from the toxic exposure (there is already evidence of the impact on health in workers).

Waste of intentional produce nano microplastics waste and waste containing them

Attention have to be given to the management of waste of intentional produce nano-microplastics or containing them (by example, in products).

In particular industrial waste from industrial activities that produce or manage intentionally produced and use nano-microparticles have to collected and managed and disposed safely.