



Plastic Waste Partnership working group
Fourth meeting
Barcelona, Spain, 24–26 October 2024
Item 5 of the provisional agenda*
Workplan of the Plastic Waste Partnership
working group for 2026–2027

Workplan of the Plastic Waste Partnership working group for 2026–2027¹

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. At its fourteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, in its decision BC-14/13, established a working group of the Basel Convention Partnership on Plastic Waste, adopted the terms of reference for the Partnership. Pursuant to paragraph 9 (b) of the terms of reference, the working group is to prepare a draft workplan of the Partnership for the next biennium as needed.

II. Implementation

2. By Part VI of decision BC-14/13 on Basel Convention Partnership on Plastic Waste, the Conference of the Parties requested the Partnership working group to implement its workplan for the biennium 2020–2021.² Following its first meeting, the working group established four project groups with specific workplans focused on collecting information, categorizing it and analysing it to, inter alia, identify best practices, gaps and challenges in implementation. Due to the broad scope of the activities set out in the project group workplans, the resulting outputs provided coverage of a wide variety of approaches implemented by countries in promoting the environmentally sound management of plastic waste. By part IV of decision BC-15/22, on Basel Convention Partnership on Plastic Waste, the Conference of the Parties requested the working group to continue to implement the workplan for the biennium 2020–20219 during the biennium 2022–2023, and by decision BC-16/18 on Basel Convention Partnership on Plastic Waste, the Conference of the Parties approved the workplan of the working group for biennium 2024–2025³.

3. During its third meeting in November 2022, it was proposed that for its 2024–2025 workplan, the working group would focus on development of more focused work products that synthesize the information on specific topics and/or tailors it to a specific audience that could be of use for policy makers, regulators and other stakeholders seeking concise and accessible information to implement

* UNEP/CHW/PWPWG.4/1.

¹ This document has not been formally edited.

² UNEP/CHW.14/INF/16/Rev.1, annex II. Implementation of this workplan was extended into the 2022–2023 biennium.

³ <https://www.basel.int/Implementation/Projectgroupsandactivities/tabid/8410/Default.aspx>

such approaches. Accordingly, the workplans of the four project groups envisaged the development of knowledge briefs on the thematic areas that were set out in the initial project group workplans. Such thematic areas include, for project group 1, waste prevention and reduction, improving design, re-use and alternatives; for project group 2, environmentally sound collection, separation and recycling of plastic waste, promoting the use of non-hazardous recycled plastics, the development of markets for recycled plastics and innovative technologies for separating or eliminating hazardous substances from plastic wastes; for project group 3, implementation of the plastic waste amendments, the interpretation of the amendments and their enforcement; for project group 4, development of a communication strategy and other outreach and awareness raising activities and materials.

4. Information on the implementation of the workplan for 2024 is set out in document UNEP/CHW/PWPWG.4/3, with draft outputs made available in document UNEP/CHW/PWPWG.4/INF/8. It appears likely that implementation of the workplan for the 2024-2025 biennium would need to continue into the next biennium, given the number of knowledge briefs that have been suggested for development.

5. The working group may, however, wish to consider the abovementioned thematic areas and whether there are additional activities it wishes to include for implementation in its workplan for the next biennium. There may also be additional thematic areas it wishes to see included in the workplan.

6. At its seventeenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties will be invited to consider further activities that could be conducted under the Basel Convention in response to developments in scientific knowledge and environmental information related to plastic waste, as well as in the consideration by the intergovernmental negotiating committee referred to in paragraph 1 of resolution 5/14 of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme. Depending on the activities agreed to by the Conference of the Parties, the Plastic Waste Partnership working group may be requested to play a role in the implementation of further activities.

II. Proposed action

7. The working group may wish to:

(a) Consider, on the basis of the thematic areas of the workplan of the Plastic Waste Partnership working group for the biennium 2024–2025,⁴ whether there are additional thematic areas or activities that could be encompassed in its workplan for the 2026-2027 biennium;

(b) Request the co-chairs to develop, on the basis of the discussions at its fourth meeting, a draft workplan of the Plastic Waste Partnership working group for the 2026–2027 biennium, for its approval by electronic means and subsequent submission to the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

⁴ Available in the annex to the present document.

Workplan of the Plastic Waste Partnership working group for the biennium 2024–2025⁵

Project group⁶	Activity	Work products/outputs⁷
1. Prevention and minimization of plastic waste	1. Provide information, best practices and lessons learned on measures taken to prevent and reduce plastic waste, in particular on single use plastic waste and packaging waste, and analyse the impacts and challenges, including environmental, socio-economic and technical considerations.	5 (1) spotlight briefs 2 (1) insight briefs
	2. Provide information on best practices and identify challenges for improving the design of plastic products to increase their durability, reusability, repairability and recyclability, as well as to reduce, and where possible eliminate, hazardous constituents in plastic products.	1 (1) spotlight brief 3 (1) insight briefs
	3. Provide information on best practices, challenges and opportunities on re-use of plastic products, especially packaging, including on identification of infrastructure development needs related to re-use, such as refill systems.	3 (2) spotlight briefs 1 insight brief
	4. Provide information that allows for the comparison, including environmental and socio-economic aspects, between plastic products and alternatives to plastic products, bio-based and non-bio-based plastic products, and bio-degradable and non-bio-degradable plastic products, taking into account a life-cycle approach.	1 (1) spotlight brief 1 insight brief
2. Collection, separation and recycling of plastic waste	1. Provide information, best practices and lessons learned to improve the environmentally sound collection, separation and recycling of plastic waste.	6 (3) spotlight briefs 7 (4) insight briefs
	2. Provide information on best practices on regulatory and voluntary measures, economic, technological tools, and other incentives for promoting the use of non-hazardous recycled plastics and the development of markets for recycled plastics	2 insight briefs

⁵ Extracted from document UNEP/CHW.16/19/Add.3/Rev.1.

⁶ Project groups established by the working group of the Plastic Waste Partnership.

⁷ Spotlight briefs are short, concise documents that synthesize information on measures, approaches and solutions that have been widely implemented by countries/regions and key findings and recommendations related to these. Insight briefs are short, concise documents that synthesize information on measures and approaches that are not yet widely implemented and explore critical issues on a specific aspect of the environmentally sound management of plastic waste. Foresight briefs are concise documents that explore issues and measures related to prevention and minimization and the environmentally sound management of plastic waste in specific sectors and waste streams other than packaging waste. Priority for development of briefs during the biennium will be given to topics considered to be of high priority by the working group; the number of briefs to be afforded high priority is indicated in brackets.

Project group ⁶	Activity	Work products/outputs ⁷
	and on the implementation of these measures and incentives.	
	3. Collect information on best practices and innovative technologies for separating or eliminating hazardous substances from plastic wastes during sorting and recycling.	1 spotlight brief
3. Transboundary movements of plastic waste	1. Develop and undertake capacity-building activities for implementation of the amendments to the Convention on plastic waste by relevant actors, including customs, and on linkages with the customs codes on plastics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Regional workshops to assist Basel Convention competent authorities and other key stakeholders in implementing the amendments to the Convention on plastic wastes; b. Information on types of plastic waste covered by the entries of the Plastic Waste Amendments in Annexes II, VIII and IX to the Basel Convention.
	2. Provide information on actions taken by countries to implement the amendments to the Convention on plastic waste, on their interpretation of these amendments (e.g. “almost exclusively” and “almost free from contamination”) and on the challenges experienced in implementation.	Compilation of information on the national contamination levels being applied and challenges in implementing these levels.
	3. Provide information to promote compliance with regulations on the transboundary movements of plastic waste and enforcement in relation to transboundary movements of plastic waste.	3 (1) spotlight briefs 1 insight brief
	4. Provide information on the transboundary movements of plastic wastes.	Synthesis of information on import and export of plastic waste from available information sources such as the national reports and UN Comtrade
4. Outreach, education and awareness-raising	1. Update the communication strategy for the Partnership.	Communication strategy for the Partnership
	2. Raise awareness about the work of the Plastic Waste Partnership and its ongoing progress.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Development of materials that promote the Plastic Waste Partnership and its objectives in general; b. Dissemination of materials that promote the Plastic Waste Partnership and its objectives in general.
	3. Develop and disseminate information materials, including through campaigns and initiatives, on prevention, minimization, environmentally sound management and transboundary movements of plastic waste, including on topics identified by, and on the outputs of, the other project groups and as appropriate, the pilot projects.	a. Development and dissemination of electronic and visually based communication, education and awareness-raising materials that promote the specific work and outputs of Project Groups 1, 2 and 3 and

Project group ⁶	Activity	Work products/outputs ⁷
		<p>of other entities, as relevant and appropriate (subject to available resources);</p> <p>b. Dissemination of the Partnership related materials at key events to be held in partnership with other organizations to promote information sharing and capacity building on environmentally sound management of plastic waste;</p> <p>c. Synthesise, streamline and disseminate outcomes, best practices, outreach/education/awareness raising tools developed under the Partnership's pilot projects;</p> <p>d. Development of campaigns and initiatives to promote specific topics.</p>
	4. Strengthen communication and outreach with potential partners and other initiatives (e.g. Regional Centres, Partnerships, alliances, etc.)	Strengthen communication and outreach with potential partners and other initiatives (e.g. Regional Centres, Partnerships, alliances, etc.).
Cross-cutting between project groups 1 and 2	Provide information on the environmentally sound management of plastic waste in specific sectors and waste streams, barriers to such and recommendations to promote solutions.	9 (4) foresight briefs on specific waste streams and sectors.