

World Café Cluster 1

Objectives, Definitions and Structure of Work

Pacific Regional Preparatory Workshop for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee



Session Objective

For Pacific Island Countries to align around **three key aspects of work** that will be discussed during the first Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee (INC) (November 2022) in order to hold unified positions during negotiations.

The three key aspects of this work are:

- The objective(s) of the agreement
- Key definitions
- Sequencing of work

Objectives

The UNEA Resolution says:

3. *Decides* that the intergovernmental negotiating committee is to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, henceforth referred to as “the instrument”, which could include both binding and voluntary approaches, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastic, taking into account, among other things, the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, as well as national circumstances and capabilities, and including provisions:

- (a) To specify the objectives of the instrument;

1. What are the underlying conditions that need to be addressed?
2. What high-level outcome(s) do we want to achieve?
3. Is there a need for more than one objective?
4. What should the core focus of this agreement be?

Achieve / promote:

- a circular economy
- a comprehensive life cycle approach
- sustainable production and consumption of plastics.
- prevention, reduction and elimination of pollution.
- sound management of chemicals throughout life cycle.

Minimise / reduce:

- climate, trade, social, environmental and economic impacts.
- adverse effects caused by the use and production of chemicals.
- adverse effects which may result from plastic waste.

Protect / safeguard:

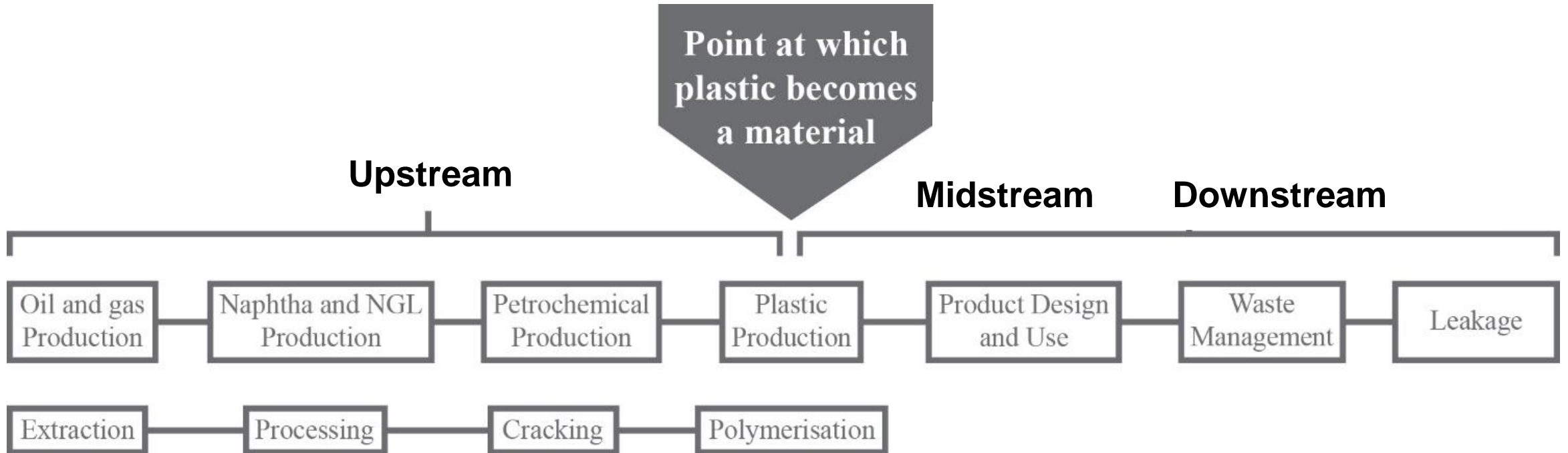
- human health
- the land
- the ocean
- the environment

Does this language reflect the Pacific position?

“To promote a **circular economy**, protective of human health and environment, by taking a **comprehensive life cycle approach** to achieve **sustainable production and consumption** of plastics.”

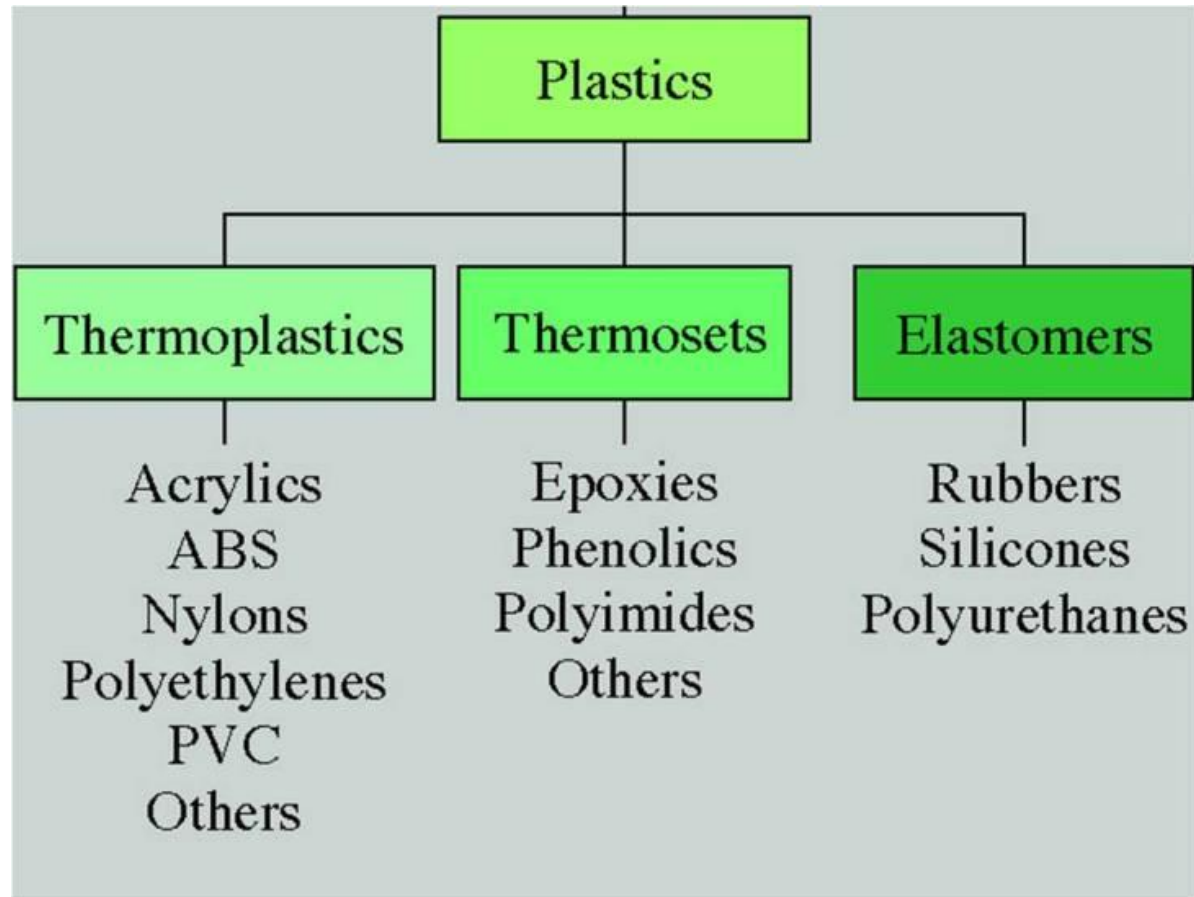
Definitions

When does the 'life cycle of plastics' begin and end?



Definitions

How should the term 'plastics' be defined?



Virgin plastic polymers

(% of total market share by weight in 2019)

- **Polyethylene** (low density) (LDPE) = 17.4%
- **Polyethylene** (high density) (HDPE) = 12.4%
- **Polypropylene** (PP) = 19.4
- **Polyvinyl Chloride** (PVC) = 10%
- **Polyethylene Terephthalate** (PET) = 7.9%
- **Polystyrene** (PS, EPS) = 6.2%
- **Polyurethane** (PUR) = 7.9%
- **Other Thermoset Polymers** = 7.5%
- **Other Thermoplastic Polymers** = 11.3%

How should 'plastics' be defined?

- **How broad** should the definition of 'plastics' be?
- **Should all plastic polymers** be included within scope of the new treaty?
 - If not, which ones and why?
- **Should all products** be considered plastics even if plastic polymers are not a main ingredient? (e.g. e.g. mostly other chemicals such as additives).

Structure of Work

How can we ensure that the programme of work is organised in such a way as to ensure that core Pacific priorities have sufficient space for discussion?

Proposal - Rwanda

1. Objectives and Scope

2. Lifecycle of Plastics

- a) sustainable production and consumption of plastic;
- b) product design;
- c) environmentally sound waste management.

3. National Action Plans

4. Means of Implementation

- a) financial assistance and mechanism, including a dedicated multilateral fund
- b) technical assistance, including technology transfer
- c) capacity-building and training

Proposal - EIA and CIEL

1. Objective(s), Definitions and Structure of Work
2. Institutional Framework
3. Sustainable Production and Consumption
4. Product Design
5. Waste Management
6. National Action Plans

Proposal - Saudi Arabia

1. Environmentally sound management and treatment of end-product plastic waste.
2. Environmental and socio-economic impact assessments of the measures pursued through the agreement/instrument.