



Report on the possible approaches to addressing existing plastic pollution in a global agreement

Introduction

In March 2022, the fifth meeting of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) adopted resolution 5/14 establishing an international negotiating committee (INC), with a mandate to develop a new international agreement on plastic pollution. The agreement will cover the entire plastic life cycle – from production, design and use to waste management and existing pollution.

Existing plastic pollution is a problem, especially as existing macroplastics (larger pieces of plastic waste such as plastic bags, plastic bottles and fishing nets) slowly break down into new (microplastic) pollution. Parties and stakeholders have called for existing plastic pollution both on land and at sea to be addressed in the agreement. There is, however, no consensus among the states participating in the negotiations on how or in what form this should be done at a global level.

Currently, options being discussed range from binding remediation obligations to encouraging voluntary beach clean-up through national action plans. There is a need to develop an overview of existing knowledge, proposals and options for how a global agreement can address existing plastic pollution.

Description of the procurement

The Ministry of Environment of Denmark is hereby commissioning a report outlining possible approaches to addressing existing plastic pollution in a global agreement on plastic pollution.

The report should provide an overview of the various options that exist, both based on existing research, other international instruments, as well as new ideas, including from various stakeholders, for addressing existing plastic pollution in a new agreement. The report should also include a summary for policymakers.

The report should address the following four elements: 1) the rationale for addressing existing pollution, 2) relevant experiences from other international and regional environmental agreements, 3) possible legally binding approaches, and 4) possible voluntary approaches.

The contractor should engage with relevant stakeholders in its work. The contractor should also present the final report and its findings at a suitable time. Finally, the contractor shall engage with the Ministry in developing the precise scope and methodology of the report.

The report should be written in English.

Objective and success criteria

The report will be a substantial contribution to the negotiation process by providing an overview of options for addressing existing plastic pollution and will contribute positively to the existing knowledge base. The report could help inform negotiators as well as the INC secretariat about the possible approaches for addressing existing plastic pollution in the global agreement.

Selection criteria

Advanced knowledge of the field of international environmental law and previous experience related to the plastic pollution treaty is required.

Timetable

The report should be completed well in advance of the third meeting of the intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC), tentatively scheduled for November 2023, and preferably in time for the second meeting of the INC in May/June 2023.

Application instructions

Offers must be sent in Danish or English.

Offers must contain 1) a project description, 2) draft timeline, 3) A budget, 4) the CVs of all involved personnel and 5) a signed declaration concerning the notification of processing of personal data (annex 3).

Offers should be sent to joerg@mim.dk with “Procurement: Report on the possible approaches to addressing existing plastic pollution in a global agreement” in the title. **The deadline is 27 March at 16:00 CET.**

Budget

The task has a maximum budget of DKK 200,000 excl. VAT. Offers above this will be rejected.

Contact information

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