



(1st Submission: Compilation of Key Terms Relevant for the Negotiation of a Treaty to End Plastic Pollution)

Name of country (for Members of the committee)	
Name of organization (for observers to the committee)	Center for International Environmental Law
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Date of submission	June 30, 2023

**Potential areas for intersessional work**

**Contact group 1:**

1. Information on definitions of, e.g. plastics, microplastics, circularity
2. Information on criteria, also considering different applications and sectoral requirements, including:
  - a. Chemical substances of concern in plastics,
  - b. Problematic and avoidable plastic polymers and products and related applications
  - c. Design e.g. for circularity, reuse
  - d. Substitutes and alternatives to plastic polymers and products
3. Potential substances of concern in plastics, problematic and avoidable plastic polymers and products
4. Potential sources of release of microplastics (applications and sectors).

*(Please note: A longer list is included in the co-facilitators report on discussions in contact group 1 <sup>1</sup>. Submissions may also include input on any of the items in that longer list, such as, amongst others, the development of criteria to prioritise problematic and avoidable plastics; the development of targets for the reduction, reuse and repair of problematic and avoidable plastic products; or the guidelines on EP*

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<sup>1</sup> The report can be accessed here: <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/42621/CG1.pdf>.

## (1st Submission: Compilation of Key Terms Relevant for the Negotiation of a Treaty to End Plastic Pollution)

*Inputs relating to potential areas for intersessional work :*

**Definitions:** This first CIEL's submission aims to provide input to questions raised about definitions during the discussions of the Contact Group 1 at the second session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-2).

In the text of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), definitions can either appear as part of a dedicated article on 'definitions' or 'use of terms,' or they can be embedded within a substantive or procedural provision, chapter, or annex. Some treaties do not contain explicit definitions. In certain cases, key terms can be defined through a criteria approach, or it may be possible to infer the meaning of terms from the instrument text (e.g., the preamble, objective, lists, etc.).

In June 2022, the Ad hoc open-ended working group (OEWG) to prepare for the first Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-1) of the future plastic treaty requested the INC Secretariat prepare a glossary of key terms to inform the negotiations. Two informational documents were developed in response to this request. (UNEP/PP/INC.1/6 — Glossary of key terms and UNEP/PP/INC.1/7 Plastics science — Appendix I - Key terms)

The INC process is country-led, and as in every aspect of the ongoing negotiation, it is up to negotiating delegations representing governments to decide whether the future instrument should include an article on definitions and, if so, what those definitions should be.

This submission includes elements to ensure common understanding on the definition of plastic pollution.

Annexed to this submission is a Compilation of Key Terms Relevant for the Negotiation of a Treaty to End Plastic Pollution. The Compilation, prepared in May 2023 is also available at [this link](#).

This compilation was published to serve as a one-stop shop for key terms referenced in Resolution 5/14 or expected to be relevant to the negotiation process. It aims to provide negotiators with the necessary background to inform discussion and decide on both working and final definitions for key terms. The examples included in the compilation are compiled mainly from MEAs as well as the European Union, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and other bodies such as the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC), the Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP) and the International Standardisation Organisation (ISO). A complete list of sources can be found at the end of this document. The Compilation further includes references to primary sources to facilitate constructive discussions, coherence, and consistency with other instruments, governing bodies' decisions, and regional norms.

This document addresses the following categories:

## (1st Submission: Compilation of Key Terms Relevant for the Negotiation of a Treaty to End Plastic Pollution)

- Table 1: Generic definitions of pollution
- Table 2: Definitions of plastic pollution with a full life cycle perspective
- Table 3: Definitions closely related to marine and aquatic pollution
- Table 4: Definitions closely related to forms of terrestrial pollution
- Table 5: Definitions closely related to forms of atmospheric pollution
- Table 6: Definitions related to plastics
- Table 7: Definitions related to dangerous and regulated substances and products
- Table 8: Definitions related to waste
- Table 9: Definitions related to pollution-connected actions and omissions (i.e., sources and pathways)
- Table 10: Definitions related to the full life cycle
- Table 11: Definitions related to workers under informal and cooperative settings
- Table 12: Definitions related to the traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local knowledge systems

### Special considerations and recommendations

According to UNEA Resolution 5/14, the objective of the future plastic treaty is to “end plastic pollution,” as per the resolution's title. While the resolution does not specifically define the term “plastic pollution,” it indicates clearly that the plastic treaty should be based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastic. This framework also determines the scope of the future treaty.

Clarifying the definition of this term is particularly important as it relates to the overall scope of the plastic treaty and is the subject of Table 2 of this compilation.

CIEL considers that the definition of such key terms benefit from being short, easily understandable, and should respond to the objectives set in the mandate of UNEA resolution 5/14. In that respect and based on our analysis of existing definitions, we believe that the definition used by the OECD for its global plastic outlook (***“Broadly, all emissions and risks resulting from plastics production, use, waste management and leakage”***) should be used as the working definition of “plastic pollution” during the negotiations and serve as the basis for further defining the term in the plastic treaty should it be deemed necessary.



# Compilation of Key Terms Relevant for the Negotiation of a Treaty to End Plastic Pollution

*Updated May 28, 2023*



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# **KEY**

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 (year): Link to the text of the instrument | \*\* implicit definition

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## Introduction

In March 2022, at the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2), UN Member States adopted a mandate to negotiate a legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution ('plastics treaty'). [Resolution 5/14](#), "End plastic pollution: Towards an international legally binding instrument," sets out a goal for the treaty to be negotiated before the end of 2024.

International treaties frequently include definitions of relevant terms. Definitions of key terms can play an important role in facilitating and supporting treaty negotiations and are often critical for implementing a treaty after its ratification.

In the text of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), definitions can either appear as part of a dedicated article on 'definitions' or 'use of terms,' or they can be embedded within a substantive or procedural provision, chapter, or annex. Some treaties do not contain explicit definitions. In certain cases, key terms can be defined through a criteria approach, or it may be possible to infer the meaning of terms from the instrument text (e.g., the preamble, objective, lists, etc.).

In June 2022, the Ad hoc open-ended working group (OEWG) to prepare for the first Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-1) of the future plastic treaty requested the INC Secretariat prepare a glossary of key terms to inform the negotiations. Two informational documents were developed in response to this request. [UNEP/PP/INC.1/6](#) — Glossary of key terms and [UNEP/PP/INC.1/7](#) Plastics science — Appendix I - Key terms)

The INC process is country-led, and as in every aspect of the ongoing negotiation, it is up to negotiating delegations representing governments to decide whether the future instrument should include an article on definitions and, if so, what those definitions should be.

The following compilation of existing definitions aims to serve as a one-stop shop for key terms referenced in Resolution 5/14 or expected to be relevant to the negotiation process. It aims to provide negotiators with the necessary background to inform discussion and decide on both working and final definitions for key terms. The examples included in this document are compiled mainly from MEAs as well as the European Union, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and other bodies such as the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC), the Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP) and the International Standardisation Organisation (ISO). A complete list of sources can be found at the end of this document. The Compilation further includes references to primary sources to facilitate constructive discussions, coherence, and consistency with other instruments, governing bodies' decisions, and regional norms.

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- Table 12: Definitions related to the traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local knowledge systems

## Special considerations and recommendations

According to UNEA Resolution 5/14, the objective of the future plastic treaty is to “end plastic pollution,” as per the resolution's title. While the resolution does not specifically define the term “plastic pollution,” it indicates clearly that the plastic treaty should be based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastic.

Clarifying the definition of this term is particularly important as it relates to the overall scope of the plastic treaty and is the subject of Table 2 of this compilation. The Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) considers that the definition of such key terms benefit from being short, easily understandable, and should respond to the objectives set in the mandate of UNEA resolution 5/14. In that respect and based on our analysis of existing definitions, we believe that the definition used by the OECD for its global plastic outlook (“*Broadly, all emissions and risks resulting from plastics production, use, waste management and leakage*”) should be used as the working definition of “plastic Pollution” during the negotiations and serve as the basis for further defining the term in the plastic treaty should it be deemed necessary.

Furthermore, in compiling existing definitions for the present document, CIEL identified an important gap relating to the upstream stage of the full lifecycle of plastics. CIEL finds it useful to provide working definitions for basic terms in that regard, to support a common understanding among the negotiators in developing control measures provisions relating to the upstream part of the plastic life cycle.

### KEY

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The proposed working definitions are based the study “Global governance of plastics and associated chemicals” [\(UNEP/CHW.16/INF/58\)](#), commissioned by the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions, and refer in particular to Table 3 of this document; Value chain phases and users across the life cycle of plastics, reproduced below.

- **Plastic feedstocks:** Materials produced and used in the sourcing extraction phase (e.g., organic and inorganic raw materials).
- **Plastic precursors:** Materials produced in the chemical phase (e.g., building blocks such as ethylene and propylene, polymers, commodity, and special chemicals).
- **Plastic material:** Materials produced and used during Step 1 of the material phase (e.g., blended polymers and additives, intermediates).
- **Plastic products:** Products used during step 2 of the material phase (e.g., plastic packaging, woven and non-woven textiles, etc...).
- **Plastic waste:** All of the above moving through the dematerialization phase.

Life cycle phase	Value chain phase	Actors
Sourcing/ extraction phase	<p><b>1. Extraction of raw materials</b></p> <p><b>A) Organic raw materials (hydrocarbons):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fossil raw materials from oil drilling, fracking and mining: crude oil, natural gas and coal</li> <li>• Bio-based raw material: land-based crops, aquatic algae or seaweed, waste and residue oils, etc.</li> </ul> <p><b>B) Inorganic raw materials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many chemicals used in plastics are prepared from inorganic compounds, including fillers (mica, talc, calcium carbonate, etc.), reinforcements (glass fibres, etc.), and pigments.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Oil &amp; gas industry</b> (fossil fuels are extracted from wellheads or drill pads and then transported by pipeline or rail to refineries and processing plants)</p> <p><b>Bio-based raw materials producers</b></p> <p><b>Mining and smelting industry</b></p> <p>(inorganic materials)</p>

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Chemical phase	<b>2. Production</b> <b>Step 1: Building block production</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refining crude oil, natural gas and coal (or bio-based raw materials) through a “cracking”/ “gasification” process and subsequent reactions to produce initial building blocks (e.g., ethylene, styrene, vinyl chloride, etc.)</li> </ul>	<b>Refiners:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Petrochemical refineries • Biorefineries</li> </ul>
	<b>Step 2: Chemical processing</b> <b>A) Polymer production</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Includes numerous polymers (number to be determined)</li> </ul> <b>B) Production of commodity and speciality chemicals</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Includes up to 13,000 additives, monomers, processing aids used for plastics, as well as NIAS</li> </ul>	<b>Polymer and chemical producers:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chemical manufacturers (including polymer manufacturers)</li> </ul>

Life cycle phase	Value chain phase	Actors
Material phase	<b>3. Manufacturing</b> <b>Step 1: Manufacturing of materials (e.g., compounding)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consists of preparing plastic formulations by mixing and/or blending polymers and additives to achieve the desired characteristics</li> </ul> <b>Step 2: Manufacturing of intermediates and final products</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intermediate molding, spinning, drawing and cutting</li> <li>Manufacturing and remanufacturing of final products</li> </ul> <b>4. Consumption</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use and reuse</li> </ul>	<b>Compounders / masterbatchers:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Companies specialized in this field</li> <li>Polymer producers and manufacturers also undertake this work</li> </ul> <b>Product producers / brand owners:</b>  <b>Retailers, transporters, and consumers</b>

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Dematerialization phase	<b>5. Waste management</b> <b>Step 1: Collection and sorting</b>	Waste management companies Informal sector (including waste pickers)
	<b>Step 2: Recovery and final disposal***</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mechanical recycling</li> <li>• Chemical recycling</li> <li>• Incineration (with or without energy recovery)</li> <li>• Landfilling</li> <li>• etc.</li> </ul>	Waste disposal treatment facilities Informal sector (informal recyclers)
	<b>6. Remediation</b>	Local councils, NGOs, local communities, fishing communities

©Source: Table 3: Value chain phases and users across the life cycle of plastics from BRS (2023). Global governance of plastics and associated chemicals. Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, United Nations Environment Programme, Geneva. Karen Raubenheimer, Niko Urho. [\(UNEP/CHW.16/INF/58\)](#)

\*\*\*Note: Each listed activity presents serious health and environmental risks and challenges, and none of these can be considered an adequate, sustainable method of dealing with plastic waste.

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## I. Generic Definitions of Pollution

<i>Other Definitions</i>	
<u>1974</u>	<b>OECD Recommendation of the Council on Principles concerning Transfrontier Pollution (38A)</b>
Annex, Title A. Introduction (...) <b>“pollution”</b> means the introduction by man, directly or indirectly, of substances or energy into the environment resulting in deleterious effects of such a nature as to endanger human health harm living resources and ecosystems, and impair or interfere with amenities and other legitimate uses of the environment.	
<u>2010</u>	<b>Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control)</b>
Art. 3.2 <b>“pollution”</b> means the direct or indirect introduction, as a result of human activity, of substances, vibrations, heat or noise into air, water or land which may be harmful to human health or the quality of the environment, result in damage to material property, or impair or interfere with amenities and other legitimate uses of the environment	
<u>2020</u>	<b>Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2020 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment</b>
Art 2.12 (a) <b>“pollution”</b> means the direct or indirect introduction of pollutants into air, water or land as a result of human activity	

### KEY

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## II. Current Working Definitions of Plastic Pollution that Include a Full Life Cycle Perspective

<i>Other Definitions</i>	
<b>2020</b>	<b>United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Communication on Trade in Plastics, Sustainability and Development WTO/JOB/TE/63</b>
2.7 “ <b>plastic pollution</b> ” is considered one of the most pressing global environmental challenges alongside <i>climate change</i> and biodiversity loss. This is mainly due to the polluting effects of plastics <i>production</i> and <i>disposal</i> processes on the air, water and ecosystems, as well as on human and animal health. Plastic production, <i>disposal</i> and <i>waste management</i> are responsible for significant greenhouse gas emissions, including through open-air incineration and energy intensive <i>recycling</i> and incineration facilities.	
<b>2022</b>	<b>OECD Global Plastics Outlook: Economic Drivers, Environmental Impacts and Policy Options</b>
Glossary entry: “ <b>plastic pollution</b> ” Broadly, all <i>emissions</i> and risks resulting from plastics production, use, <i>waste management</i> and <i>leakage</i> .	
<b>2022</b>	<b>UNEP, Plastics science: Note by the secretariat, Intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, First session (UNEP/PP/INC.1/7)</b>
Appendix I: “ <b>plastic pollution</b> ” is defined broadly as the negative effects and <i>emissions</i> resulting from the production and consumption of plastic <i>materials</i> and products across their entire life cycle. This definition includes plastic waste that is mismanaged (e.g., open-burned and dumped in uncontrolled dumpsites) and <i>leakage</i> and accumulation of plastic objects and particles that can adversely affect humans and the living and non-living environment.	

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### III. Working Definitions that are Closely Related to Forms of Marine and Aquatic Pollution

#### A. pollution

<i>Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions</i>	
<b><u>1974</u> Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (Helsinki Convention) (10P)</b>	<b><u>1992</u> Amendment of the Helsinki Convention (10P)</b>
Art. 2.1 <b>“pollution”</b> means introduction by man, directly or indirectly, of substances or energy into the marine environment, including estuaries, resulting in such deleterious effects as hazard to human health, harm to living resources and marine life, hindrance to legitimate uses of the sea including fishing, impairment of the quality for use of sea water, and reduction of amenities	Art.2.1 <b>“pollution”</b> means introduction by man, directly or indirectly, of substances or energy into the <del>marine environment</del> <u>sea</u> , including estuaries, <del>resulting in such deleterious effects as</del> <u>which are liable to create</u> hazards to human health, <u>to</u> harm living resources and marine <del>life</del> <u>ecosystems, to cause</u> hindrance to legitimate uses of the sea including fishing, <u>to</u> impair the. quality for use of sea water, and <u>to lead to a</u> reduction of amenities
<b><u>1981</u> Convention for Co-operation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region (Abidjan Convention) (19P)</b>	
Art. 2.1 <b>“pollution”</b> means the introduction by man, directly or indirectly, of substances or energy into the marine environment, coastal zones, and related inland waters resulting in such deleterious effects as harm to living resources, hazards to human health, hindrance to marine activities, including fishing, impairment of quality for use of sea-water and reduction of amenities	
<b><u>1985</u> Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region and Related Protocols (Nairobi Convention) (amended in <u>2010</u>) (10P)</b>	
Art. 2.b <b>“pollution”</b> means the introduction by man directly or indirectly, of substances or energy into the marine environment, including estuaries, resulting in such deleterious effects as harm to living resources hazards to human	

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health, hindrance to marine activities, including fishing, impairment of quality for use of sea water and reduction of amenities; of amenities
<b>1996 Protocol To The Convention On The Prevention Of Marine Pollution By Dumping Of Wastes And Other Matter, 1972 (London Protocol) (amended 2006) (53P)</b>
Art. 1.10 “ <b>pollution</b> ” means the introduction, directly or indirectly, by human activity, of wastes or other matter into the sea which results or is likely to result in such deleterious effects as harm to living resources and marine ecosystems, hazards to human health, hindrance to marine activities, including fishing and other legitimate uses of the sea, impairment of quality for use of sea water and reduction of amenities
<b>2003 Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Framework Convention) (5P)</b>
Art. 1 “ <b>pollution</b> ” — the introduction by man, directly or indirectly, of substances or energy into the environment resulting or likely to result in such deleterious effects as harm to living resources and marine life, hazards to human health and hindrance to legitimate uses of the Caspian Sea
<i>Other Definitions</i>
<b>2000 Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy</b>
Art. 2.33 “ <b>pollution</b> ” means the direct or indirect introduction, as a result of human activity, of substances or heat into the air, water or land which may be harmful to human health or the quality of aquatic ecosystems or terrestrial ecosystems directly depending on aquatic ecosystems, which result in damage to material property, or which impair or interfere with amenities and other legitimate uses of the environment
<b>2008 Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy (Marine Strategy Framework Directive)</b>
Art. 3.8 “ <b>pollution</b> ” means the direct or indirect introduction into the marine environment, as a result of human activity, of substances or energy, including human-induced marine underwater noise, which results or is likely to result in deleterious effects such as harm to living resources and marine ecosystems, including loss of biodiversity, hazards to

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human health, the hindering of marine activities, including fishing, tourism and recreation and other legitimate uses of the sea, impairment of the quality for use of sea water and reduction of amenities or, in general, impairment of the sustainable use of marine goods and services

## B. marine pollution

[[UNEA R. 5/14](#)] pp.13]

<i>Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions</i>
<a href="#">1978</a> <b>Kuwait Regional Convention for Co-operation on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Pollution (Kuwait Convention) (8P)</b>
Art. 1.a <b>“marine pollution”</b> means the introduction by man, directly or indirectly, of substances or energy into the marine environment resulting or likely to result in such deleterious effects as harm to living resources, hazards to human health, hindrance to marine activities including fishing, impairment of quality for use of sea and reduction of amenities
<i>Other Definitions</i>
<a href="#">1966</a> <b>Report of Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research and Advisory Committee on Marine Resources Research (SCOR/ACMRR) Working Group 22 on Marine Pollution, accepted at the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC)</b>
Agenda Item 3 (b) <b>“Marine Pollution”</b> Introduction by man of <i>substances</i> into the marine environment resulting in such deleterious effects as harm to living resources, hazards to human health, hindrance to maritime activities including fishing, and reduction of amenities
<a href="#">1969</a> <b>Report of the First Session of the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP) I/11</b>

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Par. 12: **“Marine Pollution”** Introduction by man of substances into the marine environment, including estuaries resulting in such deleterious effects as harm to living resources, hazards to human health, hindrance to marine activities including fishing, impairment of quality for use of sea water and reduction of amenities

### C. pollution damage

<i>Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions</i>	
<b>*1969 International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage (CLC) (32P)</b>	<b>1992 Protocol of 1992 to Amend the Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage (CLC) (146P)</b>
Art.1.6 <b>“pollution damage”</b> means loss or damage caused outside the ship carrying oil by contamination resulting from the escape or discharge of oil from the ship, wherever such escape or discharge may occur, and includes the costs of preventive measures and further loss or damage caused by preventive measures	Art. 12.6 <b>“pollution damage”</b> means: (a) loss or damage caused outside the ship <del>carrying oil</del> by contamination resulting from the escape or discharge of oil from the ship, wherever such escape or discharge may occur, <u>provided that compensation for impairment of the environment other than loss of profit from such impairment shall be limited to costs of reasonable measures of reinstatement actually undertaken or to be undertaken;</u> (b) the costs of preventive measures and further loss or damage caused by preventive measures

### D. pollution incident

#### *Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

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**2002 Amendment of the 1976 Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Prevention Pollution from Ships, and, in Cases of Emergency, Combatting Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea (Prevention and Emergency Protocol) (17P)**

Art. 1.b **“pollution incident”** means an occurrence or series of occurrences having the same origin, which results or may result in a discharge of oil and/or hazardous and noxious substances and which poses or may pose a threat to the marine environment, or to the coastline or related interests of one or more States, and which requires emergency action or other immediate response" of amenities

## E. pollution of an international watercourse

*Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

**1997 Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses (UN Watercourses Convention) (37P)**

Art. 21.1 **“pollution of an international watercourse”** means any detrimental alteration in the composition or quality of the waters of an international watercourse which results directly or indirectly from human conduct

## F. pollution of the marine environment

*Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

**\*\*1973/1978 International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL 1973) as modified by the Protocol 1978 (160P)**

Art. 1 (...) in order to prevent the **“pollution of the marine environment”** by the discharge of harmful substances or effluents containing such substances in contravention of the present Convention

**1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)<sup>ii</sup> (168P)**

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Art. 1.1.4 **“pollution of the marine environment”** means the introduction by man, directly or indirectly, of substances or energy into the marine environment, including estuaries, which results or is likely to result in such deleterious effects as harm to living resources and marine life, hazards to human health, hindrance to marine activities, including fishing and other legitimate uses of the sea, impairment of quality for use of sea water and reduction of amenities


**2002 Convention For Cooperation In The Protection And Sustainable Development Of The Marine And Coastal Environment Of The Northeast Pacific (Antigua Convention) (2R\*)**

Art. 3.1.d **“pollution of the marine environment”** means the introduction by man, directly or indirectly, of substances or of energy into the marine environment (including estuaries and wetlands) which cause or may give rise to harmful effects such as damage to living resources or marine life, risks to human health, obstacles to maritime activities including fisheries and other legitimate uses of the sea, deterioration of sea water quality for their use, and impairment of leisure and aquaculture areas

## G. pollution of the sea

### *Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

**\*\*1972 Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft (Oslo Convention) (8R\*)**

Art. 1. The Contracting Parties pledge themselves to take all possible steps to prevent the **“pollution of the sea”** by substances that are liable to create hazards to human health, to harm living resources and marine life, to damage amenities or to interfere with other legitimate uses of the sea. 

## H. Other relevant terms

### 1. environmentally harmful activities

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### *Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

#### **\*\*1974 Convention on the Protection of the Environment (Nordic Convention) (4P)**

Art. 1. (...) “**environmentally harmful activities**” shall mean the discharge from the *soil* or from buildings or installations of solid or liquid *waste*, gas or any other substance into watercourses, lakes or the sea and the use of land, the sea-bed, buildings or installations in any other way which entails, or may entail environmental nuisance by water pollution or any other effect on water conditions, sand drift, air pollution, noise, vibration, changes in temperature, ionizing radiation, light, etc.

## 2. other forms of environmental deterioration

### *Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

#### **2002 Convention For Cooperation In The Protection And Sustainable Development Of The Marine And Coastal Environment Of The Northeast Pacific (Antigua Convention) (2R\*)**

Art. 3.1.e. “**other forms of environmental deterioration**” means activities of man-made origin that may alter the quality of the marine environment and its resources and affect them in such a way as to reduce their natural recovery and regeneration capacity, such as erosion, the introduction of exotic species, protection capacity against natural phenomena, etc.

## 3. watercourse

### *Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

#### **2000 Revised Protocol on Shared Watercourses in the Southern African Development Community (10P)**

Art. 1.1 “**Watercourse**” means a system of surface and ground waters consisting by virtue of their physical relationship a unitary whole normally flowing into a common terminus such as the sea, lake or aquifer

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## IV. Working Definitions that are Closely Related to Forms of Terrestrial Pollution

### A. land

<i>Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions</i>	
<u>1994</u>	<b>United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)</b> <u>(197P)</u>
Art. 1.e “ <b>land</b> ” means the terrestrial bio-productive system that comprises soil, vegetation, other biota, and the ecological and hydrological processes that operate within the system <sup>IV</sup>	

#### 1. desertification

<i>Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions</i>	
<u>1994</u>	<b>United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)</b> <u>(197P)</u>
Art. 1.a “ <b>desertification</b> ” means land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas resulting from various factors, including climatic variations and human activities <sup>V</sup>	
<i>Other Definitions</i>	
	<b>Food and Agriculture Association of the United Nations (FAO) FAO Soils Portal</b> <a href="#">website</a>
Definition: “ <b>desertification</b> ” is another common term used for (a) land degradation in dryland areas and/or (b) the irreversible change of the land to such a state it can no longer be recovered for its original use.	

#### 2. land degradation

<i>Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions</i>	
<u>1994</u>	<b>United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)</b> <u>(197P)</u>

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Art. 1.f **“land degradation”** means reduction or loss, in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, of the biological or economic productivity and complexity of rainfed cropland, irrigated cropland, or range, pasture, forest and woodlands resulting from land uses or from a process or combination of processes, including processes arising from human activities and habitation patterns

#### *Other Definitions*

**2017** ISO 14055-1:2017 Environmental management — Guidelines for establishing good practices for combatting land degradation and desertification

3.2.13 **“land degradation”** form of deterioration of the natural potential of that affects ecosystem integrity, either in terms of reducing its sustainable ecological productivity or in terms of its native biological richness and maintenance of resilience

**2019** Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Climate Change and Land

FN6 **“land degradation”** is defined in this report as ‘a negative trend in land condition, caused by direct or indirect human induced processes, including anthropogenic climate change, expressed as long-term reduction and as loss of at least one of the following: biological productivity, ecological integrity, or value to humans’

**Food and Agriculture Association of the United Nations (FAO) FAO Soils Portal website**

Definition: **“land degradation”** has a wider scope than both soil erosion and soil degradation in that it covers all negative changes in the capacity of the ecosystem to provide goods and services (including biological and water related goods and services – and in LADA’s vision - also land-related social and economic goods and services).

## B. soil

#### *Other Definitions*

#### KEY

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* <b>2010</b> Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control)	
Art. 3.21 <b>“soil”</b> means the top layer of the Earth’s crust situated between the bedrock and the surface. The soil is composed of mineral particles, organic matter, water, air and living organisms	
<b>2015</b> ISO 11074: 2015 Soil quality — Vocabulary	<b>2019</b> ISO 15799:2019 Soil quality — Guidance on the ecotoxicological characterization of soils and soil materials
2.1.11 <b>“soil”</b> upper layer of the Earth’s crust transformed by weathering and physical/chemical and biological processes and composed of mineral particles, organic matter, water, air, and living organisms organized in generic soil horizons  Note 1 to entry: In a broader civil engineering sense, soil includes topsoil and sub-soil; deposits such as clays, silts, sands, gravels, cobbles, boulders, and organic matter and deposits such as peat; materials of human origin such as wastes; ground gas and moisture; and living organisms.	3.1.1 <b>“soil”</b> upper layer of the Earth’s crust <del>transformed by weathering and physical/chemical and biological processes and composed of mineral particles, organic matter, water, air and organisms in generic soil horizons</del>  <del>Note 1 to entry: In a broader civil engineering sense, soil includes topsoil and sub-soil; deposits such as clays, silts, sands, gravels, cobbles, boulders, and organic matter and deposits such as peat; materials of human origin such as wastes; ground gas and moisture; and living organisms.</del>

## 1. soil erosion

### *Other Definitions*

Food and Agriculture Association of the United Nations (FAO) FAO Soils Portal [website](#)

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Definition: **“soil erosion”** is a common term that is often confused with soil degradation as a whole, but in fact refers only to absolute soil losses in terms of topsoil and nutrients. This is indeed the most visible effect of soil degradation, but does not cover all of its aspects. Soil erosion is a natural process in mountainous areas, but is often made much worse by poor management practices

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## V. Working Definitions that are Closely Related to Forms of Atmospheric Pollution

### A. air pollution

[[UNEA R. 5/14](#) pp4\*\*, pp8\*\*]

<i>Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions</i>	
<a href="#">1977</a>	<b>International Labour Organization (ILO) Working Environment Convention No. 148</b> ( <a href="#">47P</a> )
Art. 3(a) the term “ <b>air pollution</b> ” covers all air contaminated by substances, whatever their physical state, which are harmful to health or otherwise dangerous	
<a href="#">1979</a>	<b>Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP)</b> ( <a href="#">51P</a> )
Art.1.a “ <b>air pollution</b> ” means the introduction by man, directly or indirectly, of substances or energy into the air resulting in deleterious effects of such a nature as to endanger human health, harm living resources and ecosystems and material property and impair or interfere with amenities and other legitimate uses of the environment, and "air pollutants" shall be construed accordingly	

### 1. Critical levels

<i>Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions</i>	
<a href="#">1991</a>	<b>Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution Concerning the Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds or their Transboundary Fluxes (Geneva Convention)</b> ( <a href="#">24P</a> )
Art. 1.8 “ <b>critical levels</b> ” means concentrations of pollutants in the atmosphere for a specified exposure time below which direct adverse effects on receptors, such as human beings, plants, ecosystems or materials do not occur according to present knowledge	
<a href="#">1994</a>	<b>Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution on Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions (Oslo Protocol)</b> ( <a href="#">29P</a> )

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Art.1.9 “**critical levels**” means the concentration of pollutants in the atmosphere above which direct adverse effects on receptors, such as human beings, plants, ecosystems or materials, may occur, according to present knowledge (...)<sup>vi</sup>

## 2. critical load

### *Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

**1988** Sofia Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution Concerning the Control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides or their Transboundary Fluxes (Nitrogen Oxide Protocol) **(35P)**

Art. 1.7 “**critical load**” means a quantitative estimate of the exposure to one or more pollutants below which significant harmful effects on specified sensitive elements of the environment do not occur according to present knowledge

## 3. significant harm

### *Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

**2000** Revised Protocol on Shared Watercourses in the Southern African Development Community **(10P)**

Art.1.1 “**significant harm**” means non-trivial harm capable of being established by objective evidence without necessarily rising to the level of being substantial

## B. adverse effects

**UNEA R. 5/14** pp13]

### *Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

**1985** Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (Vienna Convention) **(185P)**

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Art.1 2. **“adverse effects”** means changes in the physical environment or biota, including changes in climate, which have significant deleterious effects on human health or on the composition, resilience and productivity of natural and managed ecosystems, or on materials useful to mankind<sup>vii</sup>

## 1. significant adverse effects

### *Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

**2011** The Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety **(52P)**

Art. 2.3 A **“significant adverse effect”** is to be determined on the basis of factors, such as: a. The long-term or permanent change, to be understood as change that will not be redressed through natural recovery within a reasonable period of time; b. The extent of the qualitative or quantitative changes that adversely affect the components of biological diversity; c. The reduction of the ability of components of biological diversity to provide goods and services; d. The extent of any adverse effects on human health in the context of the Protocol.<sup>viii</sup>

## 2. significant adverse impacts

### *Other Definitions*

**2009** EU Council Regulation No 734/2008 of 15 July 2008 on the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems in the high seas from the adverse impacts of bottom fishing gears

Art. 2.c **“significant adverse impacts”** means impacts (evaluated individually, in combination or cumulatively) which compromise ecosystem integrity in a manner that impairs the ability of affected populations to replace themselves and that degrades the long-term natural productivity of habitats, or causes on more than a temporary basis significant loss of species richness, habitat or community types

### KEY

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## C. climate change

[[UNEA R. 5/14](#) pp13]

<i>Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions</i>
<a href="#">1992</a> <b>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)</b> ( <a href="#">197P</a> )
Art. 1. 2 “ <b>climate change</b> ” means a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.
<i>Other Definitions</i>
<a href="#">2012</a> <b>IPCC Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation</b>
Box SPM 1: “ <b>climate change</b> ” A change in the state of the climate that can be identified (e.g., by using statistical tests) by changes in the mean and/or the variability of its properties and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer. Climate change may be due to natural internal processes or external forcings, or to persistent anthropogenic changes in the composition of the atmosphere or in land use

### 1. adverse effects of climate change

<i>Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions</i>
<a href="#">1992</a> <b>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)</b> ( <a href="#">197P</a> )
Art.1.1.1 “ <b>adverse effects of climate change</b> ” means changes in the physical environment or biota resulting from climate change which have significant deleterious effects on the composition, resilience or productivity of natural and managed ecosystems or on the operation of socio-economic systems or on human health and welfare.

## D. deplete and otherwise modify the ozone layer

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*Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

**\*\*1989 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (Montreal Protocol) (198P)**

Preamble: Recognizing that world-wide emissions of certain substances can significantly “**deplete and otherwise modify the ozone layer**” in a manner that is likely to result in adverse effects on human health and the environment

**E. haze pollution**

*Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

**2003 Association of South East Asian Nations Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP) (10P)**

Art.1.6 “**haze pollution**” means smoke resulting from land and/or forest fire which causes deleterious effects of such a nature as to endanger human health, harm living resources and ecosystems and material property and impair or interfere with amenities and other legitimate uses of the environment

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## VI. Definitions Related to Plastics

### A. additives

<i>Other Definitions</i>	
<b>2002</b> Technical Guidelines of Basel Convention on ESM of Plastic Wastes UNEP/CHW.6/21	<b>*2023</b> (draft updated version of 23 February 2023) Technical guidelines of Basel Convention for the identification and ESM of plastic wastes and for their disposal UNEP/CHW/PW-SIWG.4/3 1
Appendix 6, Glossary of terms — <b>“Additives”</b> Materials which are blended with polymers to make them easy to process, to give the physical properties required in the end-application and to protect them from the effects of weather.	22. <b>“Additives”</b> are <del>Materials substances which are blended with polymers to make them easy to process, to give the physical properties required in the end-application and to protect them from the effects of weather.</del> <u>that are added to plastics to bring about certain changes to the characteristics of the plastics as desired and are usually included in the polymer matrix by blending in the melt phase but are not necessarily chemically bonded. This leads to the potential for them to be released into the environment during their production, use and waste phase</u>
<b>2008</b> International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) Compendium of polymer terminology and nomenclature recommendations	
1.30 <b>“additive”</b> Substance added to a polymer. Note 1 — The term as defined here is specific to polymer science. An alternative definition of ‘additive’ applies in some other fields of chemistry. Note 2 — An additive is usually a minor component of the mixture formed and usually modifies the properties of	

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the polymer.

Note 3: Examples of additives are antioxidants, plasticizers, flame retardants, processing aids, other polymers, colorants, UV absorbers, and extenders

**2011 Commission Regulation (EU) No. 10/2011 of 14 January 2011 on plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with food**

Art. 3.7 “**additive**” means a substance which is intentionally added to plastics to achieve a physical or chemical effect during processing of the plastic or in the final material or article; it is intended to be present in the final material or article<sup>ix</sup>

**2020 ISO/TR 21960 (en) Plastics — Environmental aspects — State of knowledge and methodologies**

3.7 “**additives**” chemicals added to **polymers** (3.1) to improve/change the individual properties of the specific plastic material

Note — Important additives such as fillers/reinforced materials, softeners and flame retardants are referenced according to ISO 1043-2 to ISO 1043-4

## B. plastic(s)

[UNEA R. 5/14 pp7 pp9, pp10, pp15, op3b]

### *Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

**1988 Annex to the Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (160P) HS Nomenclature Section VII Chapter 39 Plastics and articles thereof**

Note 1: Throughout the Nomenclature the expression “**plastics**” means those materials of headings 39.01 to 39.14 which are or have been capable, either at the moment of polymerisation or at some subsequent stage, of being formed under external influence (usually heat and pressure, if necessary with a solvent or plasticiser) by moulding, casting, extruding, rolling or other process into shapes which are retained on the removal of the external influence.

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<b>2011 Amendment to the Annex of the Protocol of 1978 Relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 (MARPOL Convention) (155P), Annex V</b>	
Reg. 1.13 <b>“Plastic”</b> means a solid material which contains as an essential ingredient one or more high molecular mass polymers and which is formed (shaped) during either manufacture of the polymer or the fabrication into a finished product by heat and/or pressure. Plastics have material properties ranging from hard and brittle to soft and elastic (...) <sup>x</sup>	
<b>2021 Amendments to the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean in the Framework of Article 15 of the Land-Based Sources Protocol (under Barcelona Convention) (17P)</b>	
Art. 3.4.q <b>“plastic”</b> means a material consisting of a polymer, to which additives or other substances may have been added, and which can function as a main structural component of final products, with the exception of natural polymers that have not been chemically modified <sup>xi</sup>	
<i>Other Definitions</i>	
<b>2002 Technical Guidelines of Basel Convention on ESM of Plastic Wastes UNEP/CHW.6/21 Appendix 6 Glossary of terms</b>	<b>*2023 (draft updated version of 23 February 2023) Technical guidelines of Basel Convention for the identification and ESM of plastic wastes and for their disposal UNEP/CHW/PW-SIWG.4/3 1</b>
<b>Plastics</b> = polymers + additives.	10. <b>“Plastic”</b> <u>is a synthetic material or modified natural material, either a polymer or combination of polymers of high molecular mass modified or compounded with additives such as fillers, plasticizers, stabilizers, flame retardants and colourants. There are different definitions of plastic in current international or national documents. For example, according to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) “plastic is a material which contains as an essential ingredient a high</u>

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	polymer and which, at some stage in its processing into finished products, can be shaped by flow” (ISO, 2013). Other definitions are available, including from MARPOL
<b>2011</b> EU Commission Regulation No. 10/2011 on plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with food	
Art. 3.2 “ <b>plastic</b> ” means polymer to which additives or other substances may have been added, which is capable of functioning as a main structural component of final materials and articles <sup>xi</sup>	
<b>2012</b> International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) Terminology for biorelated polymers and applications	
89. “ <b>plastic</b> ” Generic term used in the case of polymeric material that may contain other substances to improve performance and/or reduce costs. Note 1 — The use of this term instead of polymer is a source of confusion and thus is not recommended. Note 2 — This term is used in polymer engineering for materials often compounded that can be processed by flow.	
<b>2013</b> ISO 472:2013 (en) Plastics — Vocabulary	<b>2020</b> ISO/TR 21960 (en) Plastics — Environmental aspects — State of knowledge and methodologies
2.702 “ <b>plastic</b> ” noun: material which contains as an essential ingredient a high polymer and which, at some stage in its processing into finished products, can be shaped by flow.  Note 1 — Elastomeric materials, which are also shaped by flow, are not considered to be plastics Note 2 — In some countries, particularly the United Kingdom, the term “plastics” is used as the singular form as well as the plural form	3.2 “ <b>plastic</b> ”, <del>noun</del> : material which contains as an essential ingredient a high polymer and which, at some stage in its processing into finished products, can be shaped by flow.  Note 1 — <del>Elastomeric materials, which are also shaped by flow, are not considered to be plastics.</del> Plastics consists mainly polymers and minor contents of additives.

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	<p>Note 2 — <del>Note 2 to entry: In some countries, particularly the United Kingdom, the term “plastics” is used as the singular form as well as the plural form.</del></p> <p>Supplementary to the term “plastic”, “plastic product” is also used. According to ISO 472, a plastic product represents “any material or combination of materials, semi-finished or finished product that is within the scope of ISO/TC 61, Plastics”.</p> <p>Note 3 — Plastics comprise both thermoplastic and thermoset materials</p>
<b>2015</b> Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Pollution (GESAMP) Sources, Fate and Effects of Microplastics in the Marine Environment: A Global Assessment	<b>2019</b> Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP), Guidelines for the Monitoring and Assessment of Plastic Litter in the Ocean (2019 #99)
(...) The term <b>“plastic”</b> is used here to define a sub-category of the larger class of materials called polymers.	<b>“Plastic”</b> covers a very wide range of compositions and properties. Size, shape and composition all influence the distribution, fate and effects in the environment and need to be accounted for where possible. (...)We define <b>“plastic”</b> here as a synthetic organic polymer.
<b>2016</b> United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) assessment report: Marine Plastic Debris and Microplastics: Global Lessons and Research to Inspire Action and Guide Policy Change	
<p>“The term <b>“plastic”</b>, as commonly applied, refers to a group of synthetic polymers. There are two main classes: thermoplastic and thermoset. Thermoplastic has been shortened to ‘plastic’ and, in lay terms, has come to be the most common use of the term. In engineering, soil mechanics, materials science and geology, plasticity refers to</p>	

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the property of a material able to deform without fracturing. Thermoplastic is capable of being repeatedly moulded, or deformed plastically, when heated. Common examples include polyethylene (PE, high and low density), polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polypropylene (PP), polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and polystyrene (PS, including expanded EPS). Thermoset plastic material, once formed, cannot be remoulded by melting. Common examples include polyurethane (PUR) and epoxy resins or coatings. Plastics are commonly manufactured from fossil fuels, but bio- mass (e.g., maize, plant oils) is increasingly being used. Once the polymer is synthesized, the material properties will be the same whatever the type of raw material used.”; on additive chemicals “Many plastics often contain a wide variety of additional compounds that are added to modify the properties of the finished item”; definitions on polymers, monomers, bio-derived plastics, biodegradable plastics can be found

**2018 Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) assessment Plastics and Waterbirds: Incidence and Impacts AEWA/MOP 7.28<sup>xiii</sup>**

“**Plastics**” are a complex set of synthetic polymers that are largely immune to biological degradation

**2018 Amendment of Directive 94/62/EC of 20 December 1994 on packaging and packaging waste**

Art. 1a. “**plastic**” shall mean a polymer within the meaning of Article 3(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council, to which additives or other substances may have been added, and which is capable of functioning as a main structural component of carrier bags;

**2019 EU Directive 2019/904 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment**

(11) “**Single-use plastic products**” can be manufactured from a wide range of plastics.

“**Plastics**” are usually defined as polymeric materials to which additives may have been added. However, that definition would cover certain natural polymers. Unmodified natural polymers, within the meaning of the definition of ‘not chemically modified substances’ in point 40 of Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council, should not be covered by this Directive as they occur naturally in the environment.

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Therefore, for the purposes of this Directive, the definition of “**polymer**” in point 5 of Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 should be adapted and a separate definition should be introduced. Plastics manufactured with modified natural polymers, or plastics manufactured from bio-based, fossil or synthetic starting substances are not naturally occurring and should therefore be addressed by this Directive.

The adapted definition of “**plastics**” should therefore cover polymer-based rubber items and bio-based and biodegradable plastics regardless of whether they are derived from biomass or are intended to biodegrade over time. Paints, inks and adhesives should not be addressed by this Directive and therefore these polymeric materials should not be covered by the definition.

**2020 United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Division on International Trade and Commodities Communication to JOB/TE/63**

“**plastics**” is a term commonly used to describe a wide range of organic, synthetic and semi- synthetic materials that are used in a vast and growing range of applications. In chemical terms, all plastics, including synthetic fibres (i.e., nylon) and elastomers (i.e., rubber bands) are polymers; large molecules composed of multiple units

**2021 Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) report Impacts of Plastic Pollution on Freshwater Aquatic, Terrestrial and Avian Migratory Species in the Asia and Pacific Region**

“**plastics**” are comprised of a wide variety of polymers and composites, all with different properties. They may be soft and flexible or hard and brittle, different colours, shapes and sizes. Part of what gives plastics their properties are incorporated chemicals, for example plasticisers, dyes, and flame retardant chemicals. These chemicals vary between products and are not chemically bound to the polymer structure so can leach out of the product over time. This leaching leads items to become brittle, leading to fragmentation, ultimately forming microplastics. It has been shown that plastics exposed to solar UV radiation can even release greenhouse gases, including methane and ethylene.

**2021 Amendments to the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean in the Framework of Article 15 of the Land-Based Sources Protocol (under Barcelona Convention) (17P)**

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Art. 3.4.q <b>“plastic”</b> means a material consisting of a polymer, to which additives or other substances may have been added, and which can function as a main structural component of final products, with the exception of natural polymers that have not been chemically modified <sup>xiv</sup>
<b>2022</b> OECD Global Plastics Outlook: Economic Drivers, Environmental Impacts and Policy Options
Glossary entry: <b>“Plastic”</b> in the singular form is used as an adjective describing a noun
Glossary entry: <b>“Plastics”</b> All plastic polymers studied in the report

## 1. all plastics

<i>Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions</i>	
<b>**1991 Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, Annex IV (Marine Pollution) (41P)</b>	
Art. 5.1. The disposal into the sea of <b>“all plastics”</b> , including but not limited to synthetic ropes, synthetic fishing nets, and plastic garbage bags, shall be prohibited	
<b>**2000 Amendment to the Annex of the Protocol of 1978 Relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 (MARPOL Convention) (155P) Annex V</b>	<b>**2011 Amendment to the Annex of the Protocol of 1978 Relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 (MARPOL Convention) (155P) Annex V</b>
Reg. 3.1.a the disposal into the sea of <b>“all plastics”</b> , including but not limited to synthetic ropes, synthetic fishing nets, plastic garbage bags and incinerator ashes from plastic products which may contain toxic or heavy metal residues, is prohibited	Reg. 3.1.a2 <del>Except as provided in regulation 7 of this Annex, disposal</del> discharge into the sea of <b>“all plastics”</b> , including but not limited to synthetic ropes, synthetic fishing nets, plastic garbage bags and incinerator ashes from plastic products <del>which may contain toxic or heavy metal residues,</del> is prohibited
<b>2011 Amendment to the Annex of the Protocol of 1978 Relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 (MARPOL Convention) (155P), Annex V</b>	

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Reg. 1. 13. (...) **“all plastics”** means all garbage that consists of or includes plastic in any form, including synthetic ropes, synthetic fishing nets, plastic garbage bags and incinerator ashes from plastic products

## 2. biobased synthetic polymer

### *Other Definitions*

#### 2015 ISO 16620-1:2015(en) Plastics — Biobased content

3.1.4 **“biobased synthetic polymer”** polymer obtained through chemical and/or biological industrial process(es), wholly or partly from biomass resources

Note 1— Natural polymers are not classified as biobased synthetic polymers [see 3.1.7]

## 3. biodegradable

### *Other Definitions*

#### 2012 International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) Terminology for biorelated polymers and applications

21. **“biodegradable”** (biorelated polymer) Qualifier for macromolecules or polymeric substances susceptible to degradation by biological activity by lowering of the molar masses of macromolecules that form the substances.

Note 1 — Adapted from [8] to include the notion of decrease of molar mass in the definition.

Note 2 — It is important to note that in the field of biorelated polymers, a biodegradable compound is degradable whereas a degradable polymer is not necessarily biodegradable.

Note 3 — Degradation of a polymer in vivo or in the environment resulting from the sole water without any contribution from living elements is not biodegradation. The use of hydrolysis is recommended. (See also degradation.)

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## a) biodegradation

<i>Other Definitions</i>	
<b>2013</b>	<b>ISO 472:2013 (en) Plastics — Vocabulary</b>
2.1680:	<b>“biodegradation”</b> <composting of plastics waste> degradation caused by biological activity, especially by enzymatic action, leading to a significant change in the chemical structure of a material <sup>xv</sup>
<b>2012</b>	<b>International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) Terminology for biorelated polymers and applications</b>
23.	<b>“biodegradation”</b> (biorelated polymer) Degradation of a polymeric item due to cell-mediated phenomena [9]. Note 1 — The definition given in [2] is misleading because a substance can be degraded by enzymes in vitro and never be degraded in vivo or in the environment because of a lack of proper enzyme(s) in situ (or simply a lack of water). This is the reason why biodegradation is referred to as limited to degradation resulting from cell activity. (See enzymatic degradation.) The definition in [2] is also confusing because a compounded polymer or a copolymer can include bioresistant additives or moieties, respectively. Theoretical biodegradation should be used to reflect the sole organic parts that are biodegradable. (See theoretical degree of biodegradation and maximum degree of biodegradation.) Note 2 — In vivo, degradation resulting solely from hydrolysis by the water present in tissues and organs is not biodegradation; it must be referred to as hydrolysis or hydrolytic degradation. Note 3 — Ultimate biodegradation is often used to indicate complete transformation of organic compounds to either fully oxidized or reduced simple molecules (such as carbon dioxide/methane,

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nitrate/ammonium, and water. It should be noted that, in case of partial biodegradation, residual products can be more harmful than the initial substance.

Note 4 — When biodegradation is combined with another degrading phenomenon, a term combining prefixes can be used, such as oxo-biodegradation, provided that both contributions are demonstrated.

Note 5 — Biodegradation should only be used when the mechanism is proved, otherwise degradation is pertinent.

Note 6 — Enzymatic degradation processed abiotically in vitro is not biodegradation.

Note 7 — Cell-mediated chemical modification without main chain scission is not biodegradation. (See bioalteration.)

## b) biodegradable plastics

<i>Other Definitions</i>
<b>2019 EU Directive 2019/904 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment</b>
Art.3.16 <b>“biodegradable plastic”</b> means a plastic capable of undergoing physical, biological decomposition, such that it ultimately decomposes into carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ), biomass and water, and is, in accordance with European standards for packaging, recoverable through composting and anaerobic digestion
<b>*2023 (draft updated version of 23 February 2023) Technical guidelines of Basel Convention for the identification and ESM of plastic wastes and for their disposal UNEP/CHW/PW-SIWG.4/3 1</b>
15. <b>“Biodegradable plastics”</b> are broadly understood to refer to plastics that can be degraded under specific conditions, such as temperature, UV radiation, humidity, oxygen content and pH, by microorganisms in nature, such as bacteria, mould, and algae, and turn into carbon dioxide and

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other small molecules (SAPEA, 2020). When a plastic is claimed to be biodegradable, information by the producer is needed about the timeframe, the stages and level of biodegradation, and the environmental conditions required for biodegradation (European Bioplastics, 2018). Some standards exist to determine biodegradability of plastics, however these standards are designed for specific conditions. Further information on biodegradable plastics can be found in European Commission, 2022

#### 4. compostable plastics

<i>Other Definitions</i>	
<b>2021</b>	<b>ISO 17088:2021(en) Plastics — Organic recycling — Specifications for compostable plastics</b>
<p>3.2 <b>“compostable plastic”</b> plastic that undergoes degradation by biological processes during composting to yield CO<sub>2</sub>, water, inorganic compounds and biomass at a rate consistent with other known compostable materials and leave no visible, distinguishable or toxic residue.</p> <p>Note 1— “Hazardous” is used synonymously to “toxic”</p>	
<b>*2023</b>	<b>(draft updated version of 23 February 2023) Technical guidelines of Basel Convention for the identification and ESM of plastic wastes and for their disposal UNEP/CHW/PW-SIWG.4/3 1</b>
<p>17. <b>“Compostable plastics”</b> are a subset of biodegradable plastics designed to biodegrade under controlled conditions (European Commission, 2022). Compostable plastics are considered those plastics which have been tested and adhere to international standards for biodegradation in an industrial composting facility. In addition, compostability may be certified by a third party. While compostable plastic waste does not contribute to the soil quality of the compost, it can be composted together with organic waste. For compostable plastic waste to be fully composted together with organic waste, the composting must happen under specific conditions of temperature, moisture, oxygen level and microbial activity, normally found in controlled industrial composting facilities</p>	

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## 5. monomer

<i>Other Definitions</i>	
<u>1990</u> /1991 Second Meeting of the OECD Expert Group on Polymer Definition: Chairman's Report [ENV/MC/CHEM (91)18]	<u>2006</u> Regulation (EC) 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) establishing a European Chemicals Agency
Par. 8 " <b>monomer</b> ": means a molecule which is capable of forming covalent bonds with two or more like or unlike molecules under the conditions of the relevant polymer-forming reaction used for the particular process	Art. 3.6 " <b>Monomer</b> ": means a <del>molecule</del> <u>substance</u> which is capable of forming covalent bonds with <del>two or more</del> <u>a sequence of additional</u> like or unlike molecules under the conditions of the relevant polymer-forming reaction used for the particular process <sup>vi</sup>

## 6. monomer unit

<i>Other Definitions</i>	
<u>1990</u> /1991 Second Meeting of the OECD Expert Group on Polymer Definition: Chairman's Report [ENV/MC/CHEM (91)18]	<u>2006</u> Regulation (EC) 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals

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	(REACH) establishing a European Chemicals Agency
Par. 5 In the context of this definition a <b>“monomer unit”</b> means the reacted form of a monomer in a polymer. 1993 Chairman's Report of the OECD expert group on polymers. Third Meeting of the Experts on Polymers ENV/MC/CHEM/RD(93)4 (...) means that the monomer units under consideration are covalently bound to one another and form a continuous string within the molecule, uninterrupted by units other than monomer units.	Art.3.5 In the context of this definition a <b>“monomer unit”</b> means the reacted form of a monomer substance in a polymer. <sup>xvii</sup> 1993 Chairman's Report of the OECD expert group on polymers. Third Meeting of the Experts on Polymers ENV/MC/CHEM/RD(93)4 (...) means that the monomer units under consideration are covalently bound to one another and form a continuous string within the molecule, uninterrupted by units other than monomer units.

## 7. oxo-degradable plastics

Other Definitions
<b>2019 EU Directive 2019/904 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment</b>
Art.3.3 <b>“oxo-degradable plastic”</b> means plastic materials that include additives which, through oxidation, lead to the fragmentation of the plastic material into micro-fragments or to chemical decomposition
<b>*2023 (draft updated version of 23 February 2023) Technical guidelines of Basel Convention for the identification and ESM of plastic wastes and for their disposal UNEP/CHW/PW-SIWG.4/3 1</b>
18. <b>“Oxo-degradable plastic”</b> are non-biodegradable plastics. They are made by blending a pro-degradant additive into a non-biodegradable plastic during the extrusion process, which accelerates the fragmentation of plastics under specific conditions. However, unlike biodegradable and compostable plastics, once oxo-degradable plastics and their fragments are buried in the soil, out of sunlight, the degradation process stops

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or slows significantly and persistent small plastic particles remain intact, causing the release of microplastics. The resulting microplastics are made of oxidised non-biodegradable polymers.

## 8. plastic materials and articles

### *Other Definitions*

**2011** EU Commission Regulation No. 10/2011 on plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with food

Art. 3.1. “**plastic materials and articles**” means: a materials and articles referred to in points (a), (b) and (c) of Article 2(1); and b) plastic layers referred to in Article 2(1)(d) and (e)<sup>xviii</sup>

## 9. plastic product

### *Other Definitions*

**2013** ISO 472:2013 (en) Plastics — Vocabulary

2.1908 “**plastics product**” any material or combination of materials, semi-finished or finished product that is within the scope of ISO/TC 61, Plastics<sup>xix</sup>

## 10. primary plastics / virgin plastics

### *Other Definitions*

**2022** OECD Global Plastics Outlook: Economic Drivers, Environmental Impacts and Policy Options

Glossary entry: “**Primary or virgin plastics**” Plastics manufactured from fossil-based (e.g. crude oil) or biobased (e.g. corn, sugarcane, wheat) feedstock that has never been used or processed before

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## 11. secondary plastics / recycled plastics

<i>Other Definitions</i>
<b>2022</b> OECD Global Plastics Outlook: Economic Drivers, Environmental Impacts and Policy Options
Glossary entry: <b>“Secondary (recycled) plastics”</b> Plastic polymers made from recycled material

## 12. single use plastics

<i>Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions</i>
<b>2021</b> Amendments to the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean in the Framework of Article 15 of the Land-Based Sources Protocol (under Barcelona Convention) <b>(17P)</b>
Art. 3.4.t <b>“Single Use Plastics (SUPs)”</b> means an item or product that is made wholly or partly from plastic and that is not conceived; designed or placed on the market to accomplish, within its life span, multiple trips or rotations by being returned to a producer for refill or re-used for the same purpose for which it was conceived. <b>xx</b>

## C. polymer

Other Definitions	
<b>1990/1991 Second Meeting of the OECD Expert Group on Polymer Definition: Chairman’s Report [ENV/MC/CHEM (91)18]</b>	<b>2006 Regulation (EC) 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) establishing a European Chemicals Agency</b>

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<p>Par.5 A <b>“polymer”</b> means a substance consisting of molecules characterized by the sequence of one or more types of monomer units and comprising a simple weight majority of molecules containing at least three monomer units which are covalently bound to at least one other monomer unit or other reactant and consists of less than a simple weight majority of molecules of the same molecular weight. Such molecules must be distributed over a range of molecular weights wherein differences in the molecular weight are primarily attributable to differences in the number of monomer units.</p>	<p>Art.3.5 <b>“polymer”</b> means a substance consisting of molecules characterised by the sequence of one or more types of monomer units. Such molecules must be distributed over a range of molecular weights wherein differences in the molecular weight are primarily attributable to differences in the number of monomer units. A <b>“polymer”</b> comprises the following: (a) a simple weight majority of molecules containing at least three monomer units which are covalently bound to at least one other monomer unit or other reactant; (b) less than a simple weight majority of molecules of the same molecular weight.</p>
<p><b>2002</b> Technical Guidelines of Basel Convention on ESM of Plastic Wastes UNEP/CHW.6/21 Appendix 6 Glossary of terms</p>	<p><b>*2023</b> (draft updated version of 23 February 2023) Technical guidelines of Basel Convention for the identification and ESM of plastic wastes and for their disposal UNEP/CHW/PW-SIWG.4/3 1</p>
<p>(...) <b>“Polymer”</b> - An organic material composed of long chains of molecules made up of many monomer units. Most plastics have a chain backbone of carbon atoms. Polymers are almost always blended with additives before use.</p>	<p>11. <b>“Polymers”</b> <del>organic material are natural or synthetic substances composed of long chains of very large molecules, made up of many monomer units. Most plastics have a chain backbone of carbon atoms. Polymers are almost always blended with additives before use.</del> <u>There are a number of detailed definitions of the term “polymer”, such as by the OECD.</u></p>

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<b>2011 EU Commission Regulation No. 10/2011 on plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with food</b>	
Art. 3.3 <b>“polymer”</b> means any macromolecular substance obtained by: (a) a polymerisation process such as polyaddition or polycondensation, or by any other similar process of monomers and other starting substances; or (b) chemical modification of natural or synthetic macromolecules; or (c) microbial fermentation	
<b>2012 International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) Terminology for biorelated polymers and applications</b>	
90. <b>“polymer”</b> Substance composed of macromolecules [2]. Note — Applicable to substance macromolecular in nature like cross-linked systems that can be considered as one macromolecule.	
<b>2015 Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Pollution (GESAMP) Sources, Fate and Effects of Microplastics in the Marine Environment: A Global Assessment</b>	<b>2019 Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP), Guidelines for the Monitoring and Assessment of Plastic Litter in the Ocean (2019 #99)</b>
<b>“Polymers”</b> are very large molecules that have characteristically long chain-like molecular architecture and therefore very high average molecular weights. They may consist of repeating identical units (homopolymers) or different subunits in various possible sequences (copolymers). Those polymers that soften on heating, and can be moulded, are generally referred to as ‘plastic’ materials. These include both virgin plastic resin pellets (easily transported prior to manufacture of plastic objects) as well as the resins mixed (or blended) with numerous additives to enhance the performance of	<b>“Polymers”</b> are formed from individual monomers linked together to form long chains, rather like a train formed of many individual carriages linked together. Most plastics are synthesized from fossil fuels but biomass can be used (...)  In this report <b>“plastic”</b> is defined as: synthetic polymers with thermo-plastic or thermo-set properties (synthesized from hydrocarbon or biomass raw materials), elastomers (e.g., butyl rubber), material fibres, monofilament lines, coatings and ropes. Most

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the material. Additives may typically include fillers, plasticizers, colorants, stabilizers and processing aids. In addition to the thermoplastics, marine debris also includes some thermoset materials such as polyurethane foams, epoxy resins and some coating films. Thermosets are cross-linked materials that cannot be re-moulded on heating. However, these too are generally counted within the category of 'plastics' in marine debris	plastics can be divided into two main categories: thermoplastics (capable of being deformed by heating), which include polyethylene, polypropylene and polystyrene; and, thermoset (non-deformable), which include polyurethane, paints and epoxy resins. About 15% of total synthetic polymer production consists of fibres, such as polyester and acrylic. Many plastics are produced as a mixture of different polymers and various plasticizers, colorants, stabilizers and other additives. Another significant component of plastic marine litter is semi-synthetic material, such as cellulose nitrate and rayon, made from biomass.
<b>2020 ISO/TR 21960 Plastics — Environmental aspects — State of knowledge and methodologies</b>	
3.1 <b>“polymer”</b> chemical compound or mixture of compounds consisting of repeating structural units created through polymerization	
Note 1 to entry: In practice above 10 000 Dalton. Note 2 to entry: Polymers comprise both plastics and elastomers. The latter is excluded from the scope of ISO/TC 61.	

## 1. biobased polymer

<i>Other Definitions</i>
<b>2012 International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) Terminology for biorelated polymers and applications</b>
16. <b>“Biobased Polymer”</b> Composed or derived in whole or in part of biological products issued from the biomass (including plant, animal, and marine or forestry materials).

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Note — A biobased polymer or polymeric device is not necessarily environmentally friendly nor biocompatible nor biodegradable, especially if it is similar to a petro-based (oil-based) polymer

## 2. bioplastic

### *Other Definitions*

**2012** International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) Terminology for biorelated polymers and applications

147. **“bioplastic”** Biobased polymer derived from the biomass or issued from monomers derived from the biomass and which, at some stage in its processing into finished products, can be shaped by flow.

Note 1 — Bioplastic is generally used as the opposite of polymer derived from fossil resources.

Note 2 — Bioplastic is misleading because it suggests that any polymer derived from the biomass is environmentally friendly.

Note 3 — The use of the term “bioplastic” is discouraged. Use the expression “biobased polymer.”

## 3. macromolecule / polymer molecule

### *Other Definitions*

**2008** International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) Compendium of polymer terminology and nomenclature recommendations

1.1 **“macromolecule” “polymer molecule”** Molecule of high relative molecular mass, the structure of which essentially comprises the multiple repetition of units derived, actually or conceptually, from molecules of low relative molecular mass.<sup>xxi</sup>

Note 1 — In many cases, especially for synthetic polymers, a molecule can be regarded as having a high relative molecular mass if the addition or removal of one or a few of the units has a negligible effect on the

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molecular properties. This statement fails in the case of certain properties of macromolecules which may be critically dependent on fine details of the molecular structure, e.g., the enzymatic properties of polypeptides.

Note 2 — If a part or the whole of the molecule has a high relative molecular mass and essentially comprises the multiple repetition of units derived, actually or conceptually, from molecules of low relative molecular mass, it may be described as either macromolecular or polymeric, or by polymer used adjectivally.

Note 3 — In most cases, the polymer can actually be made by direct polymerization of its parent monomer but in other cases, e.g., poly(vinyl alcohol), the description ‘conceptual’ denotes that an indirect route is used because the nominal monomer does not exist.

#### 4. polymer adjuvants

##### *Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

##### **2019 Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) Technical Regulation**

*sobre lista positiva de aditivos para la elaboración de materiales plásticos y revestimientos poliméricos destinados a entrar en contacto con alimentos* GMC/RES. No 39/19: 33.2 **“coadyuvante de polimerización” (“polymer adjuvants”)**: toda sustancia usada para aportar un medio adecuado para la fabricación de un polímero, un plástico o un revestimiento polimérico; puede estar presente, pero ni es intencionado que esté presente en los materiales u objetos finales ni tiene efecto físico o químico en el material u objeto final.

#### 5. synthetic polymer

##### *Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

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<b>2015 ISO 16620-1:2015(en) Plastics — Biobased content</b>
3.1.3 “ <b>synthetic polymer</b> ” polymer obtained through chemical and/or biological industrial processes

## 6. copolymers

<i>Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions</i>
<b>1988 Annex to the Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (160P) HS Nomenclature Section VII Chapter 39 Plastics and articles thereof</b>
Note 4: The expression “ <b>copolymers</b> ” covers all polymers in which no single monomer unit contributes 95% or more by weight to the total polymer content

## D. size of plastics

<i>Other Definitions</i>
<b>2021 Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) report Impacts of Plastic Pollution on Freshwater Aquatic, Terrestrial and Avian Migratory Species in the Asia and Pacific Region</b>
To enable distinction between different types of plastic pollution, items recovered from the environment are broadly categorised by size. It should be noted that there is considerable debate over the distinctions between different particle size classes, with no single consensus on the definitions. Nonetheless, there are commonly agreed definitions as follows: “ <b>Macroplastics</b> ”: >2.5 cm; “ <b>Mesoplastics</b> ”: 5 mm – 2.5 cm; “ <b>Microplastics</b> ”: 1 µm – 5 mm (further distinction can be made between large microplastics, 1 mm - 5 mm; and “ <b>small microplastics</b> ”, 1 µm – 1 mm); “ <b>Nanoplastics</b> ”: 1 – 1000 nm (0.001 – 1 µm)

## 1. large microplastics

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<i>Other Definitions</i>
<b>2020 ISO/TR 21960 (en) Plastics — Environmental aspects — State of knowledge and methodologies</b>
3.10 <b>“Large microplastic”</b> any solid plastic particle insoluble in water with any dimension between 1 mm and 5 mm Note 1 — Microplastics (3.9) may show various shapes. Note 2 — Typically, a large microplastic object represents an article consisting of plastic or a part of an end-user product or a fragment of the respective article. Note 3 — Microplastics in this size range are, for example, plastic pellets as intermediates for further down-stream processing such as moulding, extrusion, etc. resulting to semi-finished products which are not final end-user products

## 2. macroplastics

<i>Other Definitions</i>
<b>2020 ISO/TR 21960 (en) Plastics — Environmental aspects — State of knowledge and methodologies</b>
3.8 <b>“Macroplastic”</b> any solid plastic particle or object insoluble in water with any dimension above 5 mm. Note 1 — Typically, a macroplastic object represents an article consisting of plastic or a part of an end-user product or a fragment of the respective article, such as cups, cup covers
<b>2022 OECD Global Plastics Outlook: Economic Drivers, Environmental Impacts and Policy Options</b>
Glossary entry: <b>“Macroplastics”</b> Recognisable plastic items such as littered plastic bottles and packaging. In this report, the use of the term encompasses plastics above 5 mm in diameter (i.e., what is often defined as <b>“meso and macro plastics”</b> elsewhere in the literature)

## 3. microparticle

<i>Other Definitions</i>
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<b>2020 ISO/TR 21960 Plastics — Environmental aspects — State of knowledge and methodologies</b>
3.11 “ <b>microparticle</b> ” solid particle insoluble in water in the dimension between 1 µm and 1 000 µm (=1 mm) Note 1 to entry: There is currently no specific distinction between nanoparticles and microparticles.

#### 4. microplastics

[[UNEA R. 5/14](#) pp2]

<i>Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions</i>	
<b>2021 Amendments to the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean in the Framework of Article 15 of the Land-Based Sources Protocol (under Barcelona Convention) (17P)</b>	
Art. 3.4p “ <b>Microplastics</b> ”, most commonly defined as manmade solid particles composed of mixtures of polymers and functional additives, smaller than 5 mm	
<i>Other Definitions</i>	
<b>2015 Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Pollution (GESAMP) Sources, Fate and Effects of Microplastics in the Marine Environment: A Global Assessment</b>	<b>2019 Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP), Guidelines for the Monitoring and Assessment of Plastic Litter in the Ocean (2019 #99)</b>
“ <b>Microplastics</b> ” articles in the size range 1 nm to <5 mm were considered microplastics for the purposes of this assessment(...)	“ <b>Microplastics</b> ” 5mm diameter as the ‘common definition’ of the upper size boundary for microplastic particles for monitoring purposes. It is important to note that this definition will include flakes and fibres, with the longest dimension < 5mm.
<b>2016 UNEA Resolution 2/11. Marine plastic litter and microplastics</b>	

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Footnote 1 <b>“microplastics”</b> Plastic particles less than 5 millimeters in diameter, including nano-sized particles
<b>2020 ISO/TR 21960 (en) Plastics — Environmental aspects — State of knowledge and methodologies</b>
3.9 <b>“Microplastic”</b> any solid plastic particle insoluble in water with any dimension between 1 µm and 1 000 µm (=1 mm) Note 1 — This term relates to plastic materials within the scope of ISO/TC 61. Rubber, fibers, cosmetic means, etc., are not within the scope. Note 2 — Typically, a microplastic object represents a particle intentionally added to end-user products, such as cosmetic means, coatings, paints, etc. A microplastic object can also result as a fragment of the respective article. Note 3 — Microplastics may show various shapes. Note 4 — The defined dimension is related to the longest distance of the particle
<b>2022 OECD Global Plastics Outlook: Economic Drivers, Environmental Impacts and Policy Options</b>
Glossary entry: <b>“Microplastics”</b> solid synthetic polymers smaller than 5 mm in diameter.

## 5. nanoplastics

<i>Other Definitions</i>
<b>2020 ISO/TR 21960 (en) Plastics — Environmental aspects — State of knowledge and methodologies</b>
3.13 <b>“Nanoplastic”</b> plastic particles smaller than 1 µm

## 6. primary microplastics

<i>Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions</i>
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<b>2021 Amendments to the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean in the Framework of Article 15 of the Land-Based Sources Protocol (under Barcelona Convention) (17P)</b>	
Art. 3.4.r <b>“primary microplastics”</b> are tiny particles designed for direct commercial use (such as cosmetics, detergents and paints components), or for indirect use (such as pre-production pellets)	
<b><u>Other Definitions</u></b>	
<b>2015 Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Pollution (GESAMP) Sources, Fate and Effects of Microplastics in the Marine Environment: A Global Assessment</b>	<b>2019 Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP), Guidelines for the Monitoring and Assessment of Plastic Litter in the Ocean (2019 #99)</b>
<b>“Primary microplastics”</b> include industrial ‘scrubbers’ used to blast clean surfaces, plastic powders used in moulding, microbeads in cosmetic formulation, and plastic nanoparticles used in a variety of industrial processes. In addition, spherical or cylindrical virgin resin pellets, typically around 5 mm in diameter, are widely used during plastics manufacture and transport of the basic resin ‘feedstock’ prior to production of plastic products.	<b>“Primary microplastics”</b> are purposefully manufactured to carry out a specific function (e.g., abrasive particles, powders for injection moulding, resin pellets for bulk transportation of polymers between manufacturing sites)
<b>2022 OECD Global Plastics Outlook: Economic Drivers, Environmental Impacts and Policy Options</b>	
Glossary entry: <b>“Primary microplastics”</b> Plastics that are smaller than 5 mm in diameter by design, such as cosmetic scrubbing agents and plastic pellets.	

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## 7. secondary microplastics

<i>Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions</i>	
<b>2015</b> Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Pollution (GESAMP) Sources, Fate and Effects of Microplastics in the Marine Environment: A Global Assessment	<b>2019</b> Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP), Guidelines for the Monitoring and Assessment of Plastic Litter in the Ocean (2019 #99)
“ <b>Secondary microplastics</b> ” result from the fragmentation and weathering of larger plastic items. This can happen during the use phase of products such as textiles, paint and tyres, or once the items have been released into the environment.	“ <b>Secondary microplastics</b> ” represent the results of wear and tear or fragmentation of larger objects, both during use and following loss to the environment <sup>xxii</sup> (e.g., textile and rope fibres, weathering and fragmentation of larger litter items, vehicle tyre wear, paint flakes).
<b>2021</b> Amendments to the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean in the Framework of Article 15 of the Land-Based Sources Protocol (under Barcelona Convention) <b>(17P)</b>	
Art. 3.4.s “ <b>secondary microplastics</b> ” means the fraction of microplastics in the marine environment which results from the breakdown of larger plastic items into numerous tiny fragments due to mechanical forces and/or photochemical processes, as well as from other degradation sources such as water bottles, fibres in wastewater from washing clothes and particles of rubber lost from tyres due to normal wear	
<b>2022</b> OECD Global Plastics Outlook: Economic Drivers, Environmental Impacts and Policy Options	
Glossary entry: “ <b>Secondary microplastics</b> ” Microplastics that are formed from the fragmentation of larger plastics, such as microplastics from tyre abrasion, synthetic microfibres shed from textile products and microplastics stemming from the degradation and fragmentation of macroplastics that have already been lost to the environment	

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## 8. synthetic polymer microparticles

<i>Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions</i>	
<p><b>*2019</b> European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) Annex XV Restrictions Report: Proposal for a Restriction</p>	<p><b>*2022</b> Commission Regulation (EU) draft amending Annex XVII to Regulation No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament of the Council concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation, and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) as regards synthetic polymer microparticles</p>
<p>Table 17.2.a “<b>microplastics</b>” material consisting of a solid polymer containing particles, to which additives or other substances may have been added, and where <math>\geq 1\%</math> w/w particles have:</p> <p>(i) all sizes <math>1\text{ nm} \leq x \leq 5\text{ mm}</math>,</p> <p>(ii) for fibres, a length of <math>3\text{ nm} \leq x \leq 15\text{ mm}</math> and a length/diameter ratio <math>&gt;3</math></p>	<p><b>microplastics “synthetic polymer microparticles”:</b> <del>materials consisting in a</del> polymers that are solid and which either are contained <u>in</u> <del>to which additives or other substances may have been added</del> particles and constitute <u>at least <math>\geq 1\%</math> w/w by weight of those</u> particles, <del>or build a continuous surface coating on</del> particles, <del>where at least 1 % by weight of those</del> <u>particles fulfill either of the following conditions: (i)</u></p> <p>(a) all sizes <u>dimensions of the particles are equal to or less than <math>1\text{ nm} \leq x \leq 5\text{ mm}</math>;</u></p> <p><del>(ii) (b) for fibres, a</del> the length of <u>the particles is</u> <del><u>equal to or less than 15 mm and a</u></del> <u>their length <math>\neq</math> to diameter ratio is <math>&gt; \text{greater than } 3</math></u></p>

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	<p><u>The following polymers are excluded from this designation:</u></p> <p><u>(a) polymers that are the result of a polymerisation process that has taken place in nature, which are not chemically modified substances;</u></p> <p><u>(b) polymers that are degradable as proved in accordance with Appendix [X];</u></p> <p><u>(c) polymers that have a solubility greater than 2 g/L as proved in accordance with Appendix [Y];</u></p> <p><u>(d) polymers that do not contain carbon atoms in their chemical structure</u></p>
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## VII. Definitions Related to Dangerous and Regulated Substances and Products

### A. chemicals

<i>Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions</i>	
<u>1990</u>	<b>International Labour Organization (ILO) Chemicals Convention, 1990 (No. 170) (23P)</b>
Art. 2.b (...) “ <b>chemicals</b> ” means chemical elements and compounds, and mixtures thereof, whether natural or synthetic;	
<u>1998</u>	<b>Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (Rotterdam Convention) (165P)</b>
Art. 2.a “ <b>chemical</b> ” means a substance whether by itself or in a mixture or preparation and whether manufactured or obtained from nature, but does not include any living organism. It consists of the following categories: pesticide (including severely hazardous pesticide formulations) and industrial	
<i>Other Definitions</i>	
<u>1983</u>	<b>(amended in 2021) Recommendation of the Council Concerning Access and the Protection of Proprietary Rights to Non-Clinical Health, Safety and Environmental Data and Information on Chemicals (OECD) (40S)</b>
(...) the word “ <b>chemicals</b> ” covers new and existing chemicals	
<u>2012</u>	<b>Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the export and import of hazardous chemicals (No 649/2012)</b>
Art.3.1 “ <b>chemical</b> ” means a substance, whether by itself or in a mixture, or a mixture, whether manufactured or obtained from nature, but does not include living organisms, which belongs to either of the following categories: (a) pesticides, including severely hazardous pesticide formulations; (b) industrial chemicals	

### 1. hazardous chemical

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<i>Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions</i>	
<b>1990</b>	<b>International Labour Organization (ILO) Chemicals Convention, 1990 (No. 170) (23P)</b>
Art. 2.b the term “ <b>hazardous chemical</b> ” includes any chemical which has been classified as hazardous in accordance with Article 6 or for which relevant information exists to indicate that the chemical is hazardous	
<i>Other Definitions</i>	
<b>2022</b>	<b>UNEP, Plastics science: Note by the secretariat, Intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, First session (UNEP/PP/INC.1/7)</b>
FN 114 “ <b>hazardous chemicals</b> ” are those that exhibit intrinsically hazardous properties such as being persistent, bio-accumulative and toxic; very persistent and very bio-accumulative; carcinogenic, mutagenic and toxic for reproduction; or endocrine disruptors; not just those that have been regulated or restricted in other regions (source: Roadmap to Zero, glossary)	

## B. materials

<i>Other Definitions</i>	
<b>2009</b>	<b>Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for the setting of ecodesign requirements for energy-related products (2009/125/EC)</b>
Art.2.9 “ <b>materials</b> ” means all materials used during the life cycle of a product	
<b>2012</b>	<b>International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) Terminology for biorelated polymers and applications</b>
79. “ <b>Material</b> ” Substance that is exploited by humans in their practical activities. Note: Sand on the beach is a substance, sand in concrete is a material.	

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## 1. raw material

<i>Other Definitions</i>	
<b>2006</b> ISO:14040:2006 Environmental management – Life cycle assessment – Principles and framework	
3.15 “ <b>raw material</b> ” primary or secondary material that is used to produce a product. Note 1 to entry: Secondary material includes recycled material	
<b>2006</b> ISO:14040:2006 Environmental management – Life cycle assessment – Principles and framework	<b>2013</b> ISO 18604:2013(en) Packaging and the environment — Material recycling
3.15 “ <b>raw material</b> ” primary or secondary material that is used to produce a product. Note 1 to entry: Secondary material includes recycled material	3.2 “ <b>primary raw material</b> ” (3.2 “ <b>virgin raw material</b> ”) material which has never been processed into any form of end-use product

## C. substances

<i>Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions</i>
<b>1998</b> Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution on Persistent Organic Pollutants (CLRTAP) (Aarhus Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants) <b>(34P)</b>
Art. 1.8 “ <b>Substance</b> ” means a single chemical species, or a number of chemical species which form a specific group by virtue of (a) having similar properties and being emitted together into the environment; or (b) forming a mixture normally marketed as a single article
<b>2022</b> International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code (inc. Amendment 40-20)
For the purposes of this section, “ <b>Substance</b> ” means chemical elements and their compounds in the natural state or obtained by any production process, including any additive necessary to preserve the stability of the product and any impurities deriving from the process used, but excluding any solvent which may be separated without affecting the stability of the substance or changing its composition.

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<i>Other Definitions</i>	
<b>2004</b> Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the limitation of emissions of volatile organic compounds due to the use of organic solvents in certain paints and varnishes and vehicle refinishing products (2004/42/EC) <sup>xiii</sup>	
Art. 2.2 “ <b>Substances</b> ” means any chemical element and its compounds, as they occur in the natural state or as produced by industry, whether in solid or liquid or gaseous form	
<b>2006</b> Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency (EC No 1907/2006)	<b>2009</b> EU Regulation 1107/2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market
Art.3.1 “ <b>Substance</b> ” means a chemical element and its compounds in the natural state or obtained by any manufacturing process, including any additive necessary to preserve its stability and any impurity deriving from the process used, but excluding any solvent which may be separated without affecting the stability of the substance or changing its composition	Art. 3.2 “ <b>Substance</b> ” means a chemical element and its compounds, <del>as they occur naturally state or obtained by any manufacture ing process, including any additive necessary to preserve its stability and any impurity inevitably resulting from the manufacturing process deriving from the process used, but excluding any solvent which may be separated without affecting the stability of the substance or changing its composition</del>
<b>2021</b> UN Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)	
“ <b>Substance</b> ” means chemical elements and their compounds in the natural state or obtained by any production process, including any additive necessary to preserve the stability of the product and any impurities deriving from the process used, but excluding any solvent which may be separated without affecting the stability of the substance or changing its composition;	

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## 1. environmentally hazardous substances

<i>Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions</i>
<b>2022</b> International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code (inc. Amendment 40-20)
2.9.3.1.1 “ <b>Environmentally hazardous substances</b> ” include, inter alia, liquid or solid substances pollutant to the aquatic environment and solutions and mixtures of such substances (such as preparations and wastes).

## 2. harmful or noxious substances and materials

<i>Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions</i>
<b>1994</b> Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil (Offshore Protocol) <b>(8P)</b>
Art.1 (j) “ <b>harmful or noxious substances and materials</b> ” means substances and materials of any kind, form or description, which might cause pollution, if introduced into the Protocol Area

## 3. harmful substance

<i>Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions</i>
<b>1973/1978</b> International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL 1973) <b>(160P)</b>
Art.2.2 “ <b>harmful substance</b> ” means any substance which, if introduced into the sea, is liable to create hazards to human health, to harm living resources and marine life, to damage amenities or to interfere with other legitimate uses of the sea, and includes any substance subject to control by the present Convention <sup>xiv</sup>

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<b>1974</b> Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (Helsinki Convention) <b>(10P*)</b>	<b>1992</b> Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (Helsinki Convention) <b>(10P)</b>
6. <b>“harmful substance”</b> means any hazardous, noxious, or other substance, which, if introduced into the sea, is liable to cause pollution	7. <b>“harmful substance”</b> means any <del>hazardous, noxious, or other</del> substance, which, if introduced into the sea, is liable to cause pollution
<b>1982</b> Regional Convention for the Conservation of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden Environment (Jeddah Convention) <b>(7P)</b>	
Art. 1.6 <b>“harmful substance”</b> : Any substance whose introduction or presence in the marine environment causes a danger threatening or impairing that environment	
<b>1992</b> Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Bucharest Convention) <b>(6P)</b>	
Art.2.4 <b>“harmful substance”</b> means any hazardous, noxious or other substance, the introduction of which into the marine environment would result in pollution or adversely affect the biological processes due to its toxicity and/or persistence and/or bioaccumulation characteristics	
<b>1992</b> Amendments to the Annex of the Protocol of 1978 Relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 (MARPOL) (Revised Annex III: Regulations for the Prevention of Pollution by Harmful Substances Carried by Sea in Packaged Form) <b>(150P)</b>	
1.1. <b>“harmful substances”</b> as those substances which are identified as marine pollutants in the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code (IMDG Code) or which meet the criteria in the appendix of this Annex	
Appendix: Guidelines for the identification of harmful substances in packaged form For the purposes of this Annex, substances identified by any one of the following criteria are <b>“harmful substances”</b> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>bioaccumulated to a significant extent and known to produce a hazard to aquatic life or to human health (Hazard Rating "+" in column A); or</li> </ul>	

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- bioaccumulated with attendant risk to aquatic organisms or to human health with a short retention of the order of one week or less (Hazard Rating "Z" in column A); or highly toxic to aquatic life, defined by a LC50/96 hour †; less than 1 ppm (Hazard Rating "4" in column B)

#### 4. hazardous or noxious substances and materials

##### *Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

**2002** Amendment of the **1976** Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Prevention Pollution from Ships, and, in Cases of Emergency, Combatting Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea (Prevention and Emergency Protocol) (**17P**)

1.c **“hazardous and noxious substances”** means any substance other than oil which, if introduced into the marine environment, is likely to create hazards to human health, to harm living resources and marine life, to damage amenities or to interfere with other legitimate uses of the sea

**2010** Protocol of the International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by Sea, 1996 (2010 HNS Protocol) (**6R\***)

Art.3 **“Hazardous and noxious substances” (HNS)** means:

- (a) any substances, materials and articles carried on board a ship as cargo, referred to in (i) to (vii) below:
- (i) oils, carried in bulk, as defined in regulation 1 of Annex I to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto, as amended;
  - (ii) noxious liquid substances, carried in bulk, as defined in regulation 1.10 of Annex II to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto, as amended, and those substances and mixtures provisionally categorized as falling in pollution category X, Y or Z in accordance with regulation 6.3 of the said Annex II;

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- (iii) dangerous liquid substances carried in bulk listed in chapter 17 of the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk, as amended, and the dangerous products for which the preliminary suitable conditions for the carriage have been prescribed by the Administration and port administrations involved in accordance with paragraph 1.1.6 of the Code;
  - (iv) dangerous, hazardous and harmful substances, materials and articles in packaged form covered by the IMDG Code, as amended;
  - (v) liquefied gases as listed in chapter 19 of the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk, as amended, and the products for which preliminary suitable conditions for the carriage have been prescribed by the Administration and port administrations involved in accordance with paragraph 1.1.6 of the Code;
  - (vi) liquid substances carried in bulk with a flashpoint not exceeding 60°C (measured by a closed-cup test);
  - (vii) solid bulk materials possessing chemical hazards covered by the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes Code, as amended, to the extent that these substances are also subject to the provisions of the IMDG Code in effect in 1996, when carried in packaged form; and
- (b) residues from the previous carriage in bulk of substances referred to in (a)(i) to (iii) and (v) to (vii) above. <sup>xxv</sup>

## 5. hazardous substance

### *Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

**1992** Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (Helsinki Convention) **(10P)**

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8. <b>“hazardous substance”</b> means any harmful substance which due to its intrinsic properties is persistent, toxic or liable to bio-accumulate
<b>1992</b> <b>Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (UNECE) (46P)</b>
Art.1.6 <b>“Hazardous substances”</b> means substances which are toxic, carcinogenic, mutagenic, teratogenic or bio-accumulative, especially when they are persistent <sup>xxvi</sup>
<b>1993</b> <b>International Labour Organization (ILO) Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents Convention (19P)</b>
Art.3.a the term <b>“hazardous substance”</b> means a substance or mixture of substances which by virtue of chemical, physical or toxicological properties, either singly or in combination, constitutes a hazard
<b>1994</b> <b>Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable use of the Danube River (Danube River Protection Convention) (15P)</b>
Art. 1.d <b>“Hazardous substances”</b> means substances which have toxic, cancerogenic, mutagenic, teratogenic or bioaccumulative effects, in particular those being persistent and having significant adverse impact on living organisms
<i>Other Definitions</i>
<b>2000</b> <b>Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy</b>
Art. 2.29 <b>“Hazardous substances”</b> means substances or groups of substances that are toxic, persistent and liable to bio-accumulate, and other substances or groups of substances which give rise to an equivalent level of concern
<b>2010</b> <b>Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control) (2010/75/EU)</b>
Art. 3.18 <b>“hazardous substances”</b> means substances or mixtures as defined in Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures

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## 6. mixture

<i>Other Definitions</i>	
<b>2004</b>	Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the limitation of emissions of volatile organic compounds due to the use of organic solvents in certain paints and varnishes and vehicle refinishing products (2004/42/EC) <sup>xxvii</sup>
Art.3.2. “ <b>mixture</b> ” means a mixture or solution composed of two or more substances	
<b>2021</b>	UN Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)
“ <b>Mixture</b> ” means a mixture or a solution composed of two or more substances in which they do not react (...)	

## 7. not chemically modified substance

<i>Other Definitions</i>	
<b>2006</b>	Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency (EC No 1907/2006)
Art.3.40 “ <b>Not chemically modified substance</b> ” means a substance whose chemical structure remains unchanged, even if it has undergone a chemical process or treatment, or a physical mineralogical transformation, for instance to remove impurities	

## 8. substance of concern

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<i>Other Definitions</i>	
<b>2009</b> Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council 1107/2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market (EC No 1107/2009)	<b>2012</b> Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the making available on the market and use of biocidal products (No 528/2012)
Art. 3.4 “ <b>substance of concern</b> ” means any substance which has an inherent capacity to cause an adverse effect on humans, animals or the environment and is present or is produced in a plant protection product in sufficient concentration to present risks of such an effect	Art. 3.1.f “ <b>substance of concern</b> ” means any substance, <u>other than the active substance</u> , which has an inherent capacity to cause an adverse effect, <u>immediately or in the more distant future</u> , on humans, <u>in particular vulnerable groups</u> , animals or the environment and is present or is produced in a <del>plant protection</del> <u>biocidal</u> product in sufficient concentration to present risks of such an effect. <u>Such a substance would, unless there are other grounds for concern, normally be: a substance classified as dangerous or that meets the criteria to be classified as dangerous according to Directive 67/548/EEC, and that is present in the biocidal product at a concentration leading the product to be regarded as dangerous within the meaning of Articles 5, 6 and 7 of Directive 1999/45/EC, or</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>a substance classified as hazardous or that meets the criteria for classification as</u></li> </ul>

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	<p><u>hazardous according to Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008, and that is present in the biocidal product at a concentration leading the product to be regarded as hazardous within the meaning of that Regulation,</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>a substance which meets the criteria for being a persistent organic pollutant (POP) under Regulation (EC) No 850/2004, or which meets the criteria for being persistent, bio-accumulative and toxic (PBT) or very persistent and very bio-accumulative (vPvB) in accordance with Annex XIII to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006</u></li> </ul>
<p><b>*2022 European Commission Proposal for a Regulation establishing a framework for setting ecodesign requirements for sustainable products</b></p>	
<p>Art.2.12: <b>“substance of concern”</b> means a substance that:</p> <p>(a) meets the criteria laid down in Article 57 and is identified in accordance with Article 59(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006; or</p> <p>(b) is classified in Part 3 of Annex VI to Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 in one of the following hazard classes or hazard categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• carcinogenicity categories 1 and 2,</li> <li>• germ cell mutagenicity categories 1 and 2,</li> <li>• reproductive toxicity categories 1 and 2, [to be added in the course of the legislative procedure once Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 contains these hazard classes: Persistent, Bioaccumulative,</li> </ul>	

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Toxic (PBTs), very Persistent very Bioaccumulative (vPvBs); Persistent, Mobile and Toxic (PMT), very Persistent very Mobile (vPvM); Endocrine disruption],

- respiratory sensitisation category 1,
- skin sensitisation category 1,
- chronic hazard to the aquatic environment categories 1 to 4,
- hazardous to the ozone layer,
- specific target organ toxicity – repeated exposure categories 1 and 2,
- specific target organ toxicity – single exposure categories 1 and 2; or

(c) negatively affects the re-use and recycling of materials in the product in which it is present;

## 9. substances hazardous to water

### *Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

**1994** Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable use of the Danube River (Danube River Protection Convention) (15P)

Art. 1. “**Substances hazardous to water**” means substances the hazard potential of which to water resources is extraordinarily high so that their handling requires special preventive and protective measures

## 10. substances which occur in nature

### *Other Definitions*

**2006** Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency (EC No 1907/2006)

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Art.3.39 **“Substances which occur in nature”** means a naturally occurring substance as such, unprocessed or processed only by manual, mechanical or gravitational means, by dissolution in water, by flotation, by extraction with water, by steam distillation or by heating solely to remove water, or which is extracted from air by any means

## D. pollutant

<i>Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions</i>	
<b>2003</b>	<b>Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (Kyiv Protocol) (38P)</b>
Art. 2.6 <b>“Pollutant”</b> means a substance or a group of substances may be harmful to the environment or to human health on account of its properties and of its introduction into the environment	
<i>Other Definitions</i>	
<b>2000</b>	<b>Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy</b>
Art. 2.31 <b>“Pollutant”</b> means any substance liable to cause pollution, in particular those listed in Annex VIII	
<b>2015</b>	<b>Commission Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the rules concerning reference methods, data validation and location of sampling points for the assessment of ambient air quality (amends several annexes to Directives 2004/107/EC and 2008/50/EC) (2015/1480)</b>
Art.2.2. <b>“pollutant”</b> shall mean any substance present in ambient air and likely to have harmful effects on human health and/or the environment as a whole	
<b>2020</b>	<b>Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2020 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment</b>
Art 2.10 <b>“pollutant”</b> means a substance, vibration, heat, noise, light or other contaminant present in air, water or land which may be harmful to human health or the environment, which may result in damage to material property, or which may impair or interfere with amenities and other legitimate uses of the environment	

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## 1. air pollutants

<i>Other Definitions</i>
<b>1997</b> UN Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, Glossary of Environment Statistics
<b>“air pollutants”</b> are substances in air that could, at high enough concentrations, harm human beings, animals, vegetation or material. Air pollutants may thus include forms of matter of almost any natural or artificial composition capable of being airborne. They may consist of solid particles, liquid droplets or gases, or combinations of these forms

## 2. marine pollutants

<i>Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions</i>
<b>2022</b> International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code (inc. Amendment 40-20)
2.10.1 <b>“Marine pollutants”</b> means substances which are subject to the provisions of Annex III of MARPOL, as amended.

## 3. persistent organic pollutants (POPs)

<i>Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions</i>
<b>1998</b> Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution on Persistent Organic Pollutants (CLRTAP) (Aarhus Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants) <b>(34P)</b>
Art. 1.7 <b>“Persistent organic pollutants”</b> (POPs) are organic substances that: (i) possess toxic characteristics; (ii) are persistent; (iii) bioaccumulate; (iv) are prone to long-range transboundary atmospheric transport

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and deposition; and (v) are likely to cause significant adverse human health or environmental effects near to and distant from their sources
<b>**2001 Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Stockholm Convention) (185P)</b>
Recognizing that “ <b>persistent organic pollutants</b> ” possess toxic properties, resist degradation, bioaccumulate and are transported, through air, water and migratory species, across international boundaries and deposited far from their place of release, where they accumulate in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems
<i>Other Definitions</i>
<b>2010 UNEP Glossary of key terms, Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury, First Session</b>
“ <b>Persistent Organic Pollutants</b> ” Also referred to as POPs. Chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods of time. Regulated under the Stockholm Convention.
<b>**2021 Regulation (EU) 2019/1021 of the European Parliament and of the Council on 20 June 2019 on persistent organic pollutants</b>
The Union is seriously concerned by the continuous release of “ <b>persistent organic pollutants (‘POPs’)</b> ” into the environment. Those chemical substances are transported across international boundaries, far from their sources, and they persist in the environment, bioaccumulate through the food web, and pose a risk to human health and the environment

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## VIII. Definitions Related to Waste

### A. waste(s)

<i>Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions</i>	
<u>1989</u>	<b>Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (Basel Convention)</b> ( <u>189P</u> )
Art. 2.1 “ <b>wastes</b> ” are substances or objects which are disposed of or are intended to be disposed of or are required to be disposed of by the provisions of national law <sup>xxviii</sup>	
<u>1991</u>	<b>Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa (Bamako Convention)</b> ( <u>P31</u> including Guinea-Bissau + Morocco) <sup>xxix</sup>
Art.1.1 “ <b>wastes</b> ” are substances or materials which are disposed of, or are intended to be disposed of, or are required to be disposed of by the provisions of national law	
<u>1994</u>	<b>Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil (Offshore Protocol)</b> ( <u>8P</u> )
Art. 1 (i) “ <b>wastes</b> ” means substances and materials of any kind, or description resulting from activities covered by this Protocol which are disposed of or are intended for disposal or are required to be disposed of	
<u>2003</u>	<b>Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Kyiv Protocol)</b> ( <u>38P</u> )
Art. 2.10 “ <b>Waste</b> ” means substances or objects which are: (a) Disposed of or recovered; (b) Intended to be disposed of or recovered; or (c) Required by the provisions of national law to be disposed of or recovered <sup>xxx</sup>	
<u>2022</u>	<b>International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code (inc. Amendment 40-20)</b>
1.2.1 “ <b>Wastes</b> ” means substances, solutions, mixtures, or articles containing or contaminated with one or more constituents which are subject to the provisions of this Code and for which no direct use is envisaged but which are transported for dumping, incineration, or other methods of disposal	

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<i>Other Definitions</i>		
<b>1988</b> OECD C(88)90/FINAL Decision on Transfrontier Movements of Hazardous Wastes ( <b>35A</b> *)	<b>2001</b> OECD Council Decision C(2001)107/FINAL concerning the revision of the Council <b>1992</b> Decision C(92)39/FINAL on the Control of Transfrontier Movements of Wastes Destined for Recovery Operations (Last amendment in <b>2021</b> ) ( <b>38A</b> )	
1. <b>WASTES</b> are materials other than radioactive materials intended for DISPOSAL, for reasons specified in Table 1.	1. <b>"wastes"</b> are substances or objects, other than radioactive materials covered by other international agreements, which: i) are disposed of or are being recovered; or ii) are intended to be disposed of or recovered; or iii) are required, by the provisions of national law, to be disposed of or recovered.	
* <b>1991</b> EU Council Directive 91/689/EEC of 12 December 1991 on hazardous waste	<b>2008</b> Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives	
Art.1.3. The definition of <b>"waste"</b> and of the other terms used in this Directive shall be those in Directive 75/442/EEC. (read as Directive 2008/98/EC)	Art.3.1 <b>"waste"</b> means any substance or object which the holder discards or intends or is required to discard	
<b>2006</b> ISO:14040:2006(en) Environmental management – Life cycle assessment – Principles and framework	<b>2020</b> ISO/TR 21960:2020(en) Plastics — Environmental aspects — State of knowledge and methodologies <sup>xxxi</sup>	<b>2022</b> ISO 24161:2022(en) Waste collection and transportation management — Vocabulary
3.35. <b>"waste"</b> substances or objects which the holder intends or is required to dispose of	3.16 <b>"waste"</b> <del>substances</del> <u>any material</u> or object which the holder <u>discards, or</u> intends to discard, or is	3.1.2.31 <b>"Waste"</b> refuse substances or objects which are discarded, are intended to be discarded or are

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<p>Note 1 to entry: This definition is taken from the <i>Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal</i> (22 March 1989), but is not confined in this International Standard to hazardous waste.</p>	<p>required to <del>dispose of</del> <u>discard</u></p> <p><del>Note 1 to entry: This definition is taken from the <i>Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal</i> (22 March 1989), but is not confined in this International Standard to hazardous waste.</del></p>	<p>required to be discarded in accordance with national laws</p> <p>Note 1 to entry: Waste is a potential resource or commodity that could be turned into a useful product, recycled or recovered.</p> <p>[SOURCE: Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, modified — Definition revised and note to entry added.]</p>
<p><b>2012</b> International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) Terminology for biorelated polymers and applications</p>		
<p>160. “<b>waste</b>” Residue left when a compound or a product reaches the end of its initial usefulness (...) Note 2: Also referred to as rubbish, trash, garbage, or junk depending upon the type of <i>material</i> and the regional terminology.</p>		

## 1. hazardous wastes

<i>Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions</i>
<p><b>1991</b> Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa (Bamako Convention) (<b>P31</b> including Guinea-Bissau + Morocco) <sup>xxxii</sup></p>
<p>Art.1.2 “<b>hazardous wastes</b>” means wastes as specified in Article 2 of this Convention</p>

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<b>1996</b> Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Hazardous Wastes Protocol) <b>(7P)</b>	
Art.1 (d) <b>“hazardous wastes”</b> means wastes or categories of substances as specified in Article 3 of this Protocol	
<b>2003</b> Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Kyiv Protocol) <b>(38P)</b>	
Art. 2.12 <b>“Hazardous waste”</b> means waste that is defined as hazardous by the provisions of national law	
<i>Other Definitions</i>	
<b>*1991</b> EU Council Directive 91/689/EEC of 12 December 1991 on hazardous waste	<b>2008</b> Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives
Art.1.4. For the purpose of this Directive <b>“hazardous waste”</b> means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>wastes featuring on a list to be drawn up in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 18 of Directive 75/442/EEC (read as Directive 2008/98/EC) on the basis of Annexes I and II to this Directive, not later than six months before the date of implementation of this Directive. These wastes must have one or more of the properties listed in Annex III. The list shall take into account the origin and composition of the waste and, where</li> </ul>	Art.3.2. <b>“hazardous waste”</b> means waste which displays one or more of the hazardous properties listed in Annex III <sup>xxxiii</sup>

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<p>necessary, limit values of concentration.</p> <p>This list shall be periodically reviewed and if necessary by the same procedure,</p> <p>any other waste which is considered by a Member State to display any of the properties listed in Annex III. Such cases shall be notified to the Commission and reviewed in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 18 of Directive 75/442/EEC (read as Directive 2008/98/EC) with a view to adaptation of the list.</p>	
<p><b>2001</b> OECD Council Decision C(2001)107/FINAL concerning the revision of the Council <b>1992</b> Decision C(92)39/FINAL on the Control of Transfrontier Movements of Wastes Destined for Recovery Operations (Last amendment in <b>2021</b>) (<b>38A</b>)</p>	
<p><b>“Hazardous wastes”</b> are: i) Wastes that belong to any category contained in Appendix 1 to this Decision unless they do not possess any of the characteristics contained in Appendix 2 to this Decision; and ii) Wastes that are not covered under sub-paragraph 2.(i) but are defined as, or are considered to be, hazardous wastes by the domestic legislation of the Member country of export, import or transit. Member countries shall not be required to enforce laws other than their own.</p>	
<p><b>2022</b> ISO 24161:2022(en) Waste collection and transportation management — Vocabulary</p>	
<p>3.1.2.10 <b>“hazardous waste”</b> waste (3.1.2.31) which can have an adverse impact on human health and safety and/or the environment and requires special treatment and <b>disposal (3.1.3.3)</b> Note 1 to entry: (i) Waste prescribed in accordance with national laws, where the waste has any of the characteristics mentioned in Annex III to the Basel Convention; or (ii) waste that belongs to any category contained in Annex I to the Basel Convention, unless it does not possess any of the characteristics contained in Annex III to the Basel Convention. [SOURCE:SS 603:2021, 3.3, modified — Note 1 to entry replaced.]</p>	

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## 2. mercury wastes

### *Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

#### **2013 Minamata Convention on Mercury (Minamata Convention) (137P)**

Art.11.2 (...) **“mercury wastes”** means substances or objects: (a) Consisting of mercury or mercury compounds; (b) Containing mercury or mercury compounds; or (c) Contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds, in a quantity above the relevant thresholds defined by the Conference of the Parties, in collaboration with the relevant bodies of the Basel Convention in a harmonized manner, that are disposed of or are intended to be disposed of or are required to be disposed of by the provisions of national law or this Convention. This definition excludes overburden, waste rock and tailings from mining, except from primary mercury mining, unless they contain mercury or mercury compounds above thresholds defined by the Conference of the Parties

## 3. other waste

### *Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

#### **2003 Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Kyiv Protocol) (38P)**

Art. 2.13 **“Other waste”** means waste that is not hazardous waste

## 4. plastic waste

### *Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

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**2022 ISO 24161:2022(en) Waste collection and transportation management — Vocabulary**

**“plastic waste”** discarded material which contains as an essential ingredient a high polymer Note 1 to entry: Plastic waste can be recycled via mechanical recycling, chemical recycling and organic recycling and for energy recovery. [SOURCE:ISO 472:2013, 2.702, modified — Definition changed and notes to entry replaced.]

## 5. waste minimization

*Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

**\*\*2016 Practical manuals for the promotion of the environmentally sound management of wastes, developed by the Expert Working Group on Environmentally Sound Management under the Basel Convention (UNEP/CHW.13/4/Add.1)**

**“waste minimization”** includes strict avoidance, source reduction, direct reuse, reuse and recycling<sup>xxxiv</sup>

*Other Definitions*

**2016 Practical manuals for the promotion of the environmentally sound management of wastes, developed by the Expert Working Group on Environmentally Sound Management under the Basel Convention (UNEP/CHW.13/4/Add.1)**

**“waste minimization”** includes strict avoidance, source reduction, direct reuse, reuse and recycling<sup>xxxv</sup>

## 6. wastes or other matter

*Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

**1972 Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London Convention) (87P)**

Art. 1.4 **“wastes, or other matter”** means material and substance of any kind, form or description<sup>xxxvi</sup>

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**1992 Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR Convention) (16P)**

Art.1 (o) **“wastes or other matter”** does not include: (i) human remains; (ii) offshore installations; (iii) offshore pipelines; (iv) unprocessed fish and fish offal discarded from fishing vessels

**B. garbage**

*Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

**1994 Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil (Offshore Protocol) (8P)**

Art. 1 (o) **“Garbage”** means all kinds of food, domestic and operational waste generated during the normal operation of the installation and liable to be disposed of continuously or periodically, except those substances which are defined or listed elsewhere in this Protocol

**2011 Annex V – Amendments to the Annex of the Protocol of 1978 Relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 (Revised MARPOL Annex V) (155P)**

Reg. 1.9 **“Garbage”** means all kinds of food wastes, domestic wastes and operational wastes, all plastics, cargo residues, incinerator ashes, cooking oil, fishing gear, and animal carcasses generated during the normal operation of the ship and liable to be disposed of continuously or periodically except those substances which are defined or listed in other Annexes to the present Convention. (...) <sup>xxxvii</sup>

**C. litter**

*Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

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<b>1996</b> Amendments to the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources (LBS Protocol) <b>(17R)</b>	<b>2021</b> Amendments to Annexes I, I, and IV to the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (R*)
C.14 <b><u>"Litter"</u></b> any persistent manufactured or processed solid material which is discarded, disposed of, or abandoned in the marine and coastal environment	C.14 <del>15.</del> <b><u>"Litter"</u></b> any persistent manufactured or processed solid material which is discarded, disposed of, or abandoned in the marine and coastal environment <u>including plastics, microplastic and micro-sized litter</u>
<b><i>Other Definitions</i></b>	
<b>1995</b> Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities	
<b>"Litter"</b> any persistent manufactured or processed solid material which is discarded, disposed of or abandoned in the marine and coastal environment, sometimes called marine debris <sup>xxxviii</sup>	
<b>2012</b> International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) Terminology for biorelated polymers and applications	
157. <b>"Litter"</b> Solid waste carelessly discarded outside the regular garbage and trash collection	
<b>2020</b> ISO/TR 21960 Plastics — Environmental aspects — State of knowledge and methodologies	<b>2022</b> ISO 24161:2022(en) Waste collection and transportation management — Vocabulary
3.14 <b>"litter"</b> solid object disposed of or abandoned in the environment <b>(3.17)</b>	<del>3.14 <b>"litter"</b> solid object disposed of or abandoned in the environment (3.17)</del> 3.1.2.18 <b>"litter"</b> waste (3.1.2.31) of a smaller size that is discarded improperly by an individual in a public environment

## 1. marine debris

### *Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

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<b>2017</b>	<b>Convention on Migratory Species, 12<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties, Resolution (UNEP/CMS/Resolution 12.20)</b>
Concerned that “ <b>marine debris</b> ,” including abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) and microplastics (...)	
1. Considers “ <b>marine debris</b> ” to include any anthropogenic, manufactured or processed solid material, irrespective of its size, present in the marine environment, including all materials discarded into the sea, on the shore, or brought indirectly to the sea by rivers, sewage, storm water or winds	
<i>Other Definitions</i>	
<b>2011</b>	<b>Honolulu Commitment, 5<sup>th</sup> International Marine Debris Conference</b>
Considered “ <b>marine debris</b> ” to include any anthropogenic, manufactured or processed solid material, irrespective of its size, discarded, disposed of or abandoned in the environment, including all materials discarded into the sea, on the shore, or brought indirectly to the sea by rivers, sewage, storm water or winds	

## 2. marine litter

<i>Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions</i>	
<b>2021</b>	<b>Amendments to the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean in the Framework of Article 15 of the Land-Based Sources Protocol (under the Barcelona Convention) (17P)</b>
Art. 3.4 (m) “ <b>Marine litter</b> ”, regardless of the size, means any persistent, manufactured or processed solid material discarded, disposed of or abandoned in the marine and coastal environment.”	
<i>Other Definitions</i>	
<b>2020</b>	<b>ISO/TR 21960 Plastics — Environmental aspects — State of knowledge and methodologies</b>
3.15 “ <b>marine litter</b> ” litter (3.14) found in the marine or coastal <b>environment</b> (3.17)	

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### 3. plastic litter

<i>Other Definitions</i>	
2019	Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP), Guidelines for the Monitoring and Assessment of Plastic Litter in the Ocean (2019 #99)
<p>“The term <b>“plastic litter”</b> is used throughout, but is synonymous with <b>“plastic debris”</b>(...)The term <b>“plastic litter”</b> covers an extremely wide variety of materials, ranging in size from ocean- going boat hulls many metres in length to particles a few nano-metres in diameter.</p>	

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## IX. Definitions Related to Pollution-Connected Actions and Omissions (i.e., Sources and Pathways)

### A. discharge

<i>Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions</i>	
<b>1954</b>	<b>International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil (OILPOL) (73R*)</b>
Art.1.1 <b>“Discharge”</b> in relation to oil or to oily mixture means any discharge or escape howsoever caused.	
<b>160 CS</b> - <b>MARPOL Adopted</b>	1973 (list of <b>amendments</b> )
Art. 3) “a) <b>“Discharge”</b> , in relation to harmful substances or effluents containing such substances, means any release howsoever caused from a ship and includes any escape, disposal, spilling, leaking, pumping, emitting or emptying (b) <b>“Discharge” does not include</b> (i) dumping within the meaning of the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and other matter, done at London on 13 November 1972; or (ii) release of harmful substances directly arising from the exploration, exploitation and associated off-shore processing of sea-bed mineral resources; or (iii) release of harmful substances for purposes of legitimate scientific research into pollution abatement or control	
<b>1991</b>	<b>Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, Annex IV (41P)</b>
Art. 1.a. <b>“discharge”</b> means any release howsoever caused from a ship and includes any escape, disposal, spilling, leaking, pumping, emitting or emptying	

### B. disposal

<i>Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions</i>	
<b>**1989</b>	<b>Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (Basel Convention) (189P)</b>

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Art. 2.4 “Disposal” means any operation specified in Annex IV to this Convention <sup>xxxix</sup>
<i>Other Definitions</i>
<b>1994</b> European Parliament and Council Directive 94/62/EC of 20 December 1994 on packaging and packaging waste
Article 3.10 “disposal” shall mean any of the applicable operations provided for in Annex II.A to Directive 75/442/EEC (read as Annex I Directive 2008/98/EC) <sup>xi</sup>
<b>2001</b> OECD Council Decision C(2001)107/FINAL concerning the revision of the Council <b>1992</b> Decision C(92)39/FINAL on the Control of Transfrontier Movements of Wastes Destined for Recovery Operations (Last amendment in <b>2021</b> ) (38A)
3. “Disposal” means any of the operations specified in Appendix 5.A to this Decision. <sup>xli</sup>
<b>2006</b> Directive 2006/66/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 September 2006 on batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators and repealing Directive 91/157/EEC
“disposal” means any of the applicable operations provided for in Annex IIA to Directive 2006/12/EC (Repealed by Directive 2008/98/EC)
<b>2008</b> Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives <sup>xlii</sup>
Art.3.19 “disposal” means any operation which is not recovery even where the operation has as a secondary consequence the reclamation of substances or energy. Annex I sets out a non-exhaustive list of disposal operations;
<b>2022</b> ISO 24161:2022(en) Waste collection and transportation management — Vocabulary
3.1.3.3. “Disposal” putting <b>waste (3.1.2.31)</b> in an appropriate facility without the intention of recovery  EXAMPLE: Incineration, final disposal (e.g. landfill). Note 1 to entry: The legal definition can differ according to national laws. Note 2 to entry: Within the European Waste Frame Directives, disposal means any operation which is not recovery, even when the operation has as a secondary consequence the reclamation of substances or energy. Landfilling is disposal; waste incineration is only disposal if it does not comply with a minimum efficiency level regarding the recovery of energy.

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### C. dumping

<i>Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions</i>	
<p><b>**1972 Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London Convention) (87P)</b></p> <p>3. 1. <b>“Dumping”</b> means: a. any deliberate disposal into the sea of wastes or other matter from vessels, aircraft, platforms or other man-made structures at sea; 2. any deliberate disposal into the sea of vessels, aircraft, platforms or other man-made structures at sea;</p> <p><b>“Dumping does not include”</b>: 1. the disposal into the sea of wastes or other matter incidental to, or derived from the normal operations of vessels, aircraft, platforms or other man-made structures at sea and their equipment, other than wastes or other matter transported by or to vessels, aircraft, platforms or other man-made structures at sea, operating for the purpose of disposal of such matter or derived from the</p>	<p><b>1996 Protocol To The Convention On The Prevention Of Marine Pollution By Dumping Of Wastes And Other Matter, 1972 (London Protocol) (amended 2006) (53P)</b></p> <p>Art. 1.4. <b>“Dumping”</b> means: 1. any deliberate disposal into the sea of wastes or other matter from vessels, aircraft, platforms or other man-made structures at sea; 2. any deliberate disposal into the sea of vessels, aircraft, platforms or other man-made structures at sea; <u>3. any storage of wastes or other matter in the seabed and the subsoil thereof from vessels, aircraft, platforms or other man-made structures at sea; and 4. any abandonment or toppling at site of platforms or other man-made structures at sea, for the sole purpose of deliberate disposal.</u></p> <p>2. <b>“Dumping does not include”</b>: 1. the disposal into the sea of wastes or other matter incidental to, or derived from the normal operations of vessels, aircraft, platforms or other man-made structures at sea and their equipment, other than wastes or other matter transported by or to vessels, aircraft, platforms or other man-made structures at sea, operating for the purpose of disposal of such matter or derived from the</p>

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treatment of such wastes or other matter on such vessels, aircraft, platforms or other man-made structures; 2. placement of matter for a purpose other than the mere disposal thereof, provided that such placement is not contrary to the aims of this Convention	treatment of such wastes or other matter on such vessels, aircraft, platforms or other man-made structures; 2. placement of matter for a purpose other than the mere disposal thereof, provided that such placement is not contrary to the aims of this <del>Convention</del> <u>Protocol</u> ; and 3. notwithstanding paragraph 4.1.4, <u>abandonment in the sea of matter (e.g., cables, pipelines and marine research devices) placed for a purpose other than the mere disposal thereof.</u>
<b>1974 Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (Helsinki Convention) (10P)</b>	<b>1992 Amendment of the Helsinki Convention (10P)</b>
2.3. a) <b>“Dumping”</b> means: (i) Any deliberate disposal at sea of wastes or other matter from vessels, aircraft, platforms or other man-made structures at sea; (ii) Any deliberate disposal at sea of vessels, aircraft, platforms or other man-made structures at sea;	2.34. <b>“Dumping”</b> means: i) any deliberate disposal at sea <u>or into the seabed</u> of wastes or other matter from <del>vessels, ships, platforms</del> other man-made structures at sea or aircraft; ii) any deliberate disposal at sea of <del>vessels, ships, platforms or</del> other man-made structures at sea or aircraft;
b) <b>“Dumping does not include”</b> : b. (i) The disposal at sea of wastes or other matter incidental to, or derived from the normal operations of vessels, aircraft, platforms or other man-made structures at sea and their equipment, other than wastes or other matter transported by or to vessels, aircraft, platforms or other man-made structures at sea, operating for the purpose of disposal	b) <b>“Dumping does not include”</b> ”: the disposal at sea of wastes or other matter incidental to, or derived from the normal operations of <del>vessels, ships, platforms or</del> other man-made structures at sea or aircraft and their equipment, other than wastes or other matter transported by or to <del>vessels, ships, platforms or</del> other man-made structures at sea or aircraft, operating for the

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of such matter or derived from the treatment of such wastes or other matter on such vessels, aircraft, platforms or structures;	purpose of disposal of such matter or derived from the treatment of such wastes or other matter on such ships, structures or aircraft;
<b>1976 Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by dumping from ships and aircraft (Dumping Protocol) (21P)</b> <sup>xliii</sup>	
<p>Art. 3 “3. <b>“Dumping”</b> means:</p> <p>(a) Any deliberate disposal at sea of wastes or other matter from ships or aircraft;</p> <p>(b) Any deliberate disposal at sea of ships or aircraft;</p> <p>(c) Any deliberate disposal or storage and burial of wastes or other matter on the seabed or in the marine subsoil from ships or aircraft.”</p> <p>4. <b>“dumping does not include”</b> ”:</p> <p>(a) The disposal at sea of wastes or other matter incidental to, or derived from the normal operations of vessels or aircraft and their equipment, other than wastes or other matter transported by or to vessels, or aircraft, operating for the purpose of disposal of such matter or derived from the treatment of such wastes or other matter on such vessels or aircraft;</p> <p>(b) Placement of matter for a purpose other than the mere disposal thereof, provided that such placement is not contrary to the aims of this Protocol <sup>xliv</sup></p> <p>(c) Any deliberate disposal or storage and burial of wastes or other matter on the seabed or in the marine subsoil from ships or aircraft (3.c added by <b>1995</b> amendment)</p>	
<b>1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) (168P)</b>	
<p>Art. 1.5 (a) <b>“dumping”</b> means: (i) any deliberate disposal of wastes or other matter from vessels, aircraft, platforms or other man-made structures at sea; (ii) any deliberate disposal of vessels, aircraft, platforms or other man-made structures at sea; (b) <b>“dumping does not include”</b> ”: (i) the disposal of wastes or other matter incidental to, or derived from the normal operations of vessels, aircraft, platforms or other man-made structures at sea and their equipment, other than wastes or other matter transported by or to vessels, aircraft, platforms or other man-made</p>	

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structures at sea, operating for the purpose of disposal of such matter or derived from the treatment of such wastes or other matter on such vessels, aircraft, platforms or structures; (ii) placement of matter for a purpose other than the mere disposal thereof, provided that such placement is not contrary to the aims of this Convention.<sup>xlv</sup>

**1992 Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Bucharest Convention) (6P)**

Art.2 (a) **“Dumping”** means: 1. any deliberate disposal of wastes or other matter from vessels or aircraft; 2. any deliberate disposal of vessels or aircraft; (b) **“dumping does not include”** : 1. the disposal of wastes or other matter incidental to or derived from the normal operations of vessels or aircraft and their equipment, other than wastes or other matter transported by or to vessels or aircraft operating for purpose of disposal of such matter or derived from the treatment of such wastes or other matter on such vessels or aircraft; 2. placement of matter for a purpose other than the mere disposal thereof, provided that such placement is not contrary to the aims of this Convention.”

**1992 Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR Convention) (16P)**

Art.1 (f) **“Dumping”** means (i) any deliberate disposal in the maritime area of wastes or other matter (1) from vessels or aircraft; (2) from offshore installations; (ii) any deliberate disposal in the maritime area of (1) vessels or aircraft; (2) offshore installations and offshore pipelines. (g) **“dumping does not include”** : (i) the disposal in accordance with the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto, or other applicable international law, of wastes or other matter incidental to, or derived from, the normal operations of vessels or aircraft or offshore installations other than wastes or other matter transported by or to vessels or aircraft or offshore installations for the purpose of disposal of such wastes or other matter or derived from the treatment of such wastes or other matter on such vessels or aircraft or offshore installations; (ii) placement of matter for a purpose other than the mere disposal thereof, provided that, if the placement is for a purpose other than that for which the matter was originally designed or constructed, it is in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention; and (iii) for the purposes of Annex III, the leaving wholly

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or partly in place of a disused offshore installation or disused offshore pipeline, provided that any such operation takes place in accordance with any relevant provision of the Convention and with other relevant international law

**2003 Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Framework Convention) (5P)**

Art. 1 **“Dumping”** any pollution to the Sea from any deliberate disposal into the marine environment of wastes or other matter from vessels, aircraft, platforms, or other man-made structures in the Caspian Sea or any deliberate disposal of vessels, aircraft, platforms, or other man-made structures in the Caspian Sea

## 1. dumping at sea

### *Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

**1991 Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa (Bamako Convention) (P31 including Guinea-Bissau + Morocco)**

Art. 1.23. **“Dumping at sea”** means the deliberate disposal of hazardous wastes at sea from vessels, aircraft, platforms or other man-made structures at sea, and includes ocean incineration and disposal into the seabed and sub-seabed

## D. emission(s)

### *Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

**1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (197P)**

Art.1.4. **“Emissions”** means the release of greenhouse gases and/or their precursors into the atmosphere over a specified area and period of time.

**1994 Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution on Further Reduction of**

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<b>Sulphur Emissions (Oslo Protocol) (29P)</b>
Art. 1.11 “ <b>Emission</b> ” means the discharge of substances into the atmosphere.
<b>1997 Amendments to the Annex of 1997 to Amend the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, (Revised MARPOL Annex VI) (104P)</b>
Regulation 2.7 “ <b>Emission</b> ” means any release of substances, subject to control by this Annex from ships into the atmosphere or sea.
<b>1998 Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution on Persistent Organic Pollutants (CLRTAP) (Aarhus Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants) (34P)</b>
Art. 1.9. “ <b>Emission</b> ” means the release of a substance from a point or diffuse source into the atmosphere <sup>xlvi</sup>
<b>2009 Protocol on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Black Sea from Land-Based Sources and Activities (1R*)</b>
Art.2 “ <b>Emission</b> ” means any kind of discharges, effluents or releases of polluting substances into the water, air or soil <sup>xlvii</sup>
<b>2013 Minamata Convention on Mercury (Minamata Convention) (137P)</b>
Art. 8.2.a “ <b>Emissions</b> ” means emissions of mercury or mercury compound to the atmosphere
<i>Other Definitions</i>
<b>2003 Directive 2003/87/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 October 2003 establishing a scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading within the Community and amending Council Directive 96/61/EC</b>
“ <b>emissions</b> ” means the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere from sources in an installation;
<b>2004 Directive 2004/35/CE of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 on environmental liability with regard to the prevention and remedying of environmental damage</b>
Art. 2.8 “ <b>Emissions</b> ” means the release in the environment, as a result of human activities, of substances, preparations, organisms or micro-organisms;

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<b>2010</b> Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control)
Art. 3.4 <b>“emission”</b> means the direct or indirect release of substances, vibrations, heat or noise from individual or diffuse sources in the installation into air, water or land
<b>2015</b> Directive (EU) 2015/2193 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on the limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from medium combustion plants
Art. 3.1 <b>“emission”</b> means the discharge of substances from a combustion plant into the air
<b>2016</b> Directive (EU) 2016/2284 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2016 on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants, amending Directive 2003/35/EC and repealing Directive 2001/81/EC
Art.3.1 <b>“emission”</b> means the release of a substance from a point or diffuse source into the atmosphere;

## E. land-based pollution

<i>Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions</i>	
<b>1974</b> Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (Helsinki Convention) <b>(10P)</b>	<b>1992</b> Amendment of the Helsinki Convention <b>(10P)</b>
Art. 2.2 2. <b>“Land-based pollution”</b> means pollution of the sea caused by discharges from land reaching the sea waterborne, airborne or directly from the coast, including outfalls from pipelines;	Art. 2.2 2. <b>“Pollution from Land-based pollution”</b> means pollution of the sea by <u>point or diffuse inputs from all sources</u> <del>caused by discharges from on</del> land reaching the sea waterborne, airborne or directly from the coast. <u>Its includesing pollution from any deliberate disposal under the seabed with access from land by tunnel, outfalls pipelines or other means;</u>

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## 1. domestic pollution

### *Other Definitions*

**1977** Recommendation of the Council for the Implementation of a Regime of Equal Right of Access and Non-Discrimination in Relation to Transfrontier Pollution (OECD/LEGAL/0152) **(38A)**

**“Domestic pollution”** means any intentional or unintentional pollution, the physical origin of which is situated wholly within the area under the national jurisdiction of one country and which has effects within that area only

## 2. land-based activities

### *Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

**2005** Protocol Concerning the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden **(2R\*)**

Art. 2.15. **“Land-based Activities”**: any human land activity which results, directly or indirectly, in pollution of the marine environment and exposes living and nonliving natural resources to destruction or threat

## 3. land-based sources

### *Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

**1990** Protocol for the Kuwait Regional Convention for Co-operation on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Pollution (Kuwait Convention) **(5P)**

Art. 1.8 **“land-based sources”** means municipal, industrial or agricultural sources both fixed and mobile on land, discharges from which reach the marine environment, as outlined in Article II of this protocol

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**1992 Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR Convention) (16P)**

Art.1.e **“Land-based sources”** means point and diffuse sources on land from which substances or energy reach the maritime area by water, through the air, or directly from the coast.<sup>xlviii</sup> Art.2) It includes sources associated with any deliberate disposal under the sea-bed made accessible from land by tunnel, pipeline or other means and sources associated with man-made structures placed, in the maritime area under the jurisdiction of a Contracting Party, other than for the purpose of offshore activities

**2005 Protocol Concerning the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (2R\*)**

Art. 2.12 **“Land-based sources”**: mobile or stationary land-based municipal, industrial or agricultural sources whose solid, fluid or gaseous discharges or emissions reach the marine environment

#### 4. land-based sources and activities

*Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

**1999 Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region and its Protocols (16P)**

Art. 1 (d) **“Land-based sources and activities”** means those sources and activities causing pollution of the Convention area from coastal disposal or from discharges that emanate from rivers, estuaries, coastal establishments, outfall structures, or other sources on the territory of a Contracting Party, including atmospheric deposition originating from sources located on its territory

#### 5. marine pollution from land-based sources

*Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

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**\*\*1983 Protocol for the Protection of the South-East Pacific against Pollution from Land-based Sources (SP)**

Art. 2. **“Marine pollution from land-based sources”** comprises:

- (a) Coastal outfalls or disposal or discharges;
- (b) Discharges through rivers, canals and other watercourses, including underground watercourses; and
- (c) In general, any other land-based source situated within the territories of the High Contracting Parties, whether through water, through the atmosphere or directly from the coast

**\*\*1983 Protocol for the Protection of the South-East Pacific against Pollution from Land-based Sources (SP)**

Art. 2. **“Marine pollution from land-based sources”** comprises:

- (a) Coastal outfalls or disposal or discharges;
- (b) Discharges through rivers, canals and other watercourses, including underground watercourses; and
- (c) In general, any other land-based source situated within the territories of the High Contracting Parties, whether through water, through the atmosphere or directly from the coast

**\*\*Art. 3 “...in accordance with this Protocol to prevent, reduce and control **“pollution of the marine environment from land-based sources”**, which results or is likely to result in such deleterious effects as harm to living resources and marine life, hazards to human health, hindrance to marine activities, including fishing and other legitimate uses of the sea, impairment of quality for the use of sea water and reduction of amenities.”**

## 6. pollution from land-based sources

### *Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

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<b>1974</b>	<b>Convention for the prevention of marine pollution from land-based sources (Paris Convention)</b>
<b>(13P)</b>	
Art. 3.c	<b>“Pollution from land-based sources”</b> means: the pollution of the maritime area i) Through watercourses, ii) From the coast, including introduction through underwater or other pipelines, iii) From man-made structures placed under the jurisdiction of a Contracting Party within the limits of the area to which the present Convention applies.”
<b>**1978</b>	<b>Kuwait Regional Convention for Co-operation on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Pollution (Kuwait Convention)</b>
<b>(8P)</b>	
Art. VI.	<b>“Pollution from land-based sources”</b> The Contracting States shall take all appropriate measures to prevent, abate and combat pollution caused by discharges from land reaching the Sea Area whether water-borne, air-borne, or directly from the coast including outfalls and pipelines.
<b>2003</b>	<b>Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Framework Convention)</b>
<b>(5P)</b>	
Art. 1	<b>“Pollution from land-based sources”</b> pollution of the sea from all kinds of point and non-point sources based on land reaching the marine environment, whether water-borne, air-borne or directly from the coast, or as a result of any disposal of pollutants from land to the sea by way of tunnel, pipeline or other means
<b>2012</b>	<b>Protocol for the Protection of the Caspian Sea Against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities to the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Moscow Protocol)</b>
<b>(4R*)</b>	
Art. 2.g	<b>“Pollution from land-based sources”</b> means pollution of the sea from all kinds of point and diffuse sources based on land reaching the marine environment, whether water-borne, air-borne or directly from the coast

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## F. leakage

<i>Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions</i>	
<b>2021</b>	<b>Amendments to the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean in the Framework of Article 15 of the Land-Based Sources Protocol (under Barcelona Convention) (17P)</b>
Art. 3.4.k <b>“Leakage”</b> means unintentional disposal of wastes into the marine environment	

### 1. plastic leakage

<i>Other Definitions</i>	
<b>2022</b>	<b>OECD Global Plastics Outlook: Economic Drivers, Environmental Impacts and Policy Options</b>
Glossary entry: <b>“Plastic leakage”</b> refers to plastics that enter terrestrial and aquatic environments <sup>xlix</sup>	

## G. releases

<i>Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions</i>	
<b>2003</b>	<b>Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (Kyiv Protocol) (38P)</b>
Art. 2.7 <b>“Release”</b> means any introduction of pollutants into the environment as a result of any human activity, whether deliberate or accidental, routine or non- routine, including spilling, emitting, discharging, injecting, disposing or dumping, or through sewer systems without final waste-water treatment	
<b>2013</b>	<b>Minamata Convention on Mercury (Minamata Convention) (137P)</b>
Art. 9.2.a <b>“Releases”</b> means releases of mercury or mercury compounds to land or water	
<i>Other Definitions</i>	
<b>2006</b>	<b>ISO:14040:2006(en) Environmental management – Life cycle assessment – Principles and framework</b>
3.30 <b>“releases”</b> emissions to air and discharges to water and soil	

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**2016** Directive (EU) 2016/2284 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2016 on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants, amending Directive 2003/35/EC and repealing Directive 2001/81/EC

Art. 2.7 **“Release”** means any introduction of pollutants into the environment as a result of any human activity, whether deliberate or accidental, routine or non- routine, including spilling, emitting, discharging, injecting, disposing or dumping, or through sewer systems without final waste-water treatment

## 1. intentional releases

### *Other Definitions*

**2019** Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP), Guidelines for the Monitoring and Assessment of Plastic Litter in the Ocean (2019 #99)

(...) While **“intentional releases”** (e.g., littering by public, illegal dumping on land or at sea) may occur, most estimates suggest the majority of plastic litter entering the ocean originates from inadequate waste management on land, combined with certain maritime sectors such as fisheries

## H. long-range transboundary air pollution

### *Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

**1979** Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP) (**51P**)

Art.1.b **“Long-range transboundary air pollution”** means air pollution whose physical origin is situated wholly or in part within the area under the national jurisdiction of one State and which has adverse effects in the area under the jurisdiction of another State at such a distance that it is not generally possible to distinguish the contribution of individual emission sources or groups of sources

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## I. transboundary haze pollution

<i>Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions</i>	
<b>2003</b>	<b>Association of South East Asian Nations Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP) (10P)</b>
Art.1.13 <b>“Transboundary haze pollution”</b> means haze pollution whose physical origin is situated wholly or in part within the area under the national jurisdiction of one Member State and which is transported into the area under the jurisdiction of another Member State.	

## J. transboundary impact

<i>Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions</i>	
<b>1992</b>	<b>United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (46P)</b>
Art.1.2. <b>“Transboundary impact”</b> means any significant adverse effect on the environment resulting from a change in the conditions of transboundary waters caused by a human activity, the physical origin of which is situated wholly or in part within an area under the jurisdiction of a Party, within an area under the jurisdiction of another Party. Such effects on the environment include effects on human health and safety, flora, fauna, soil, air, water, climate, landscape and historical monuments or other physical structures or the interaction among these factors; they also include effects on the cultural heritage or socio-economic conditions resulting from alterations to those factors <sup>1</sup>	
<b>1994</b>	<b>Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable use of the Danube River (Danube River Protection Convention) (15P)</b>
Art. 1.c <b>“Transboundary impact”</b> means any significant adverse effect on the riverine environment resulting from a change in the conditions of waters caused by human activity and stretching out beyond an area under the	

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jurisdiction of a Contracting Party. Such changes may affect life and property, safety of facilities and the aquatic ecosystems concerned

## K. impact

### *Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

#### **2017** Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) **(45P)**

Art 1. (vii) **“impact”** means any effect caused by a proposed activity on the environment including human health and safety, flora, fauna, soil, air, water, climate, landscape and historical monuments or other physical structures or the interaction among these factors; it also includes effects on cultural heritage or socio-economic conditions resulting from alterations to those factors<sup>ii</sup>

### 1. environmental impact

#### *Other Definitions*

#### **2009** Directive 2009/125/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for the setting of ecodesign requirements for energy-related products

Art. 2.12 **“Environmental impact”** means any change to the environment wholly or partially resulting from a product during its life cycle

### 2. transboundary impact

#### *Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

#### **2017** Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) **(45P)**

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Art.1 (viii) **“Transboundary impact”** means any impact, not exclusively of a global nature, within an area under the jurisdiction of a Party caused by a proposed activity the physical origin of which is situated wholly or in part within the area under the jurisdiction of another Party

## L. transboundary movement

<i>Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions</i>
<b>**1989 Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (Basel Convention) (189P)</b>
Art. 2.3 <b>“Transboundary movement”</b> means any movement of hazardous wastes or other wastes from an area under the national jurisdiction of one State to or through an area under the national jurisdiction of another State or to or through an area not under the national jurisdiction of any State, provided at least two States are involved in the movement <sup>iii</sup>
<b>2000 Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity (173P)</b>
Art.3 (k) <b>“Transboundary movement”</b> means the movement of a living modified organism from one Party to another Party, save that for the purposes of Articles 17 and 24 transboundary movement extends to movement between Parties and non-Parties.

## M. transboundary movement of wastes

<i>Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions</i>
<b>2020 International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code (inc. Amendment 40-20)</b>
1.2.1 <b>“Transboundary movement of wastes”</b> means any shipment of wastes from an area under the national jurisdiction of one country to or through an area under the national jurisdiction of another country, or to or through an area not under the national jurisdiction of any country, provided at least two countries are concerned

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by the movement.

## N. transboundary pollution

### *Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

**1980** Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution from Land-based Sources (LBS Protocol) (**Amended** in 1996 and 2021) (**22P**)

Art.11.1 **“Transboundary Pollution”** If discharges from a watercourse which flows through the territories of two or more Parties or forms a boundary between them are likely to cause pollution of the marine environment of the Protocol Area, the Parties in question, respecting the provisions of this Protocol insofar as each of them is concerned, are called upon to cooperate with a view to ensuring its full application

## O. transboundary waters

### *Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

**1992** United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (**46P**)

Art.1.1. **“Transboundary waters”** means any surface or ground waters which mark, cross or are located on boundaries between two or more States; wherever transboundary waters flow directly into the sea, these transboundary waters end at a straight line across their respective mouths between points on the low-waterline of their banks

## P. transfrontier pollution

### *Other Definitions*

#### **KEY**

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**1977 Recommendation of the Council for the Implementation of a Regime of Equal Right of Access and Non-Discrimination in Relation to Transfrontier Pollution (OECD/LEGAL/0152) (38A)**

**“transfrontier pollution”** means any intentional or unintentional pollution whose physical origin is subject to, and situated wholly or in part within the area under the national jurisdiction of one country, and which has effects in the area under the national jurisdiction of another country

## X. Definitions Related to the Full Life Cycle

### A. full life cycle

#### *Other Definitions*

**\*2022 European Commission Proposal for a Regulation establishing a framework for setting ecodesign requirements for sustainable products**

Art.2.12 **“life cycle”** means the consecutive and interlinked stages of a product’s life, consisting of raw material acquisition or generation from natural resources, pre-processing, manufacturing, storage, distribution, installation, use, maintenance, repair, upgrading, refurbishment and re-use, and end-of-life

### 1. circular economy

UNEA R. 5/14 Pp10, Op3.b, op15

#### *Other Definitions*

**2021 Amendments to the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean in the Framework of Article 15 of the Land Based Sources Protocol (under the Barcelona Convention) (17P)**

Art. 3.e **“Circular economy”**, an approach contributing to Sustainable Consumption and Production patterns, refers to a system where products, materials and resources maintain their value and use in the

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economy, for as long as possible, thus minimizing waste by sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing, remanufacturing and recycling, instead of throw-away or take-make-dispose models

**\*\*2019 UNEA Resolution 4/1 on Innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production (UNEP/EA.4/Res.1)**

(...) **“circular economy,”** one of the current sustainable economic models, in which products and materials are designed so that they can be reused, remanufactured, recycled or recovered and therefore maintained in the economy for as long as possible along with the resources they are made of, and the generation of waste, especially hazardous waste, is avoided or minimised, and greenhouse gas emissions are prevented and reduced, can significantly contribute to sustainable consumption and production<sup>liii</sup>

**\*\*2022 UNEA Resolution 5/11. Enhancing circular economy as a contribution to achieving sustainable consumption and production. (UNEP/EA.5/Res.11)**

**“circular economy”**: Underlining the importance of promoting sustainable design of products and materials so that they can be reused, remanufactured or recycled and therefore retained in the economy for as long as possible, along with the resources they are made of, and of minimizing the generation of waste, which can significantly contribute to sustainable production and consumption of plastics

## 2. chemicals at work (life cycle of chemicals)

### *Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

**\*\*1990 International Labour Organization (ILO) Chemicals Convention, 1990 (No. 170) (23P)**

Art. 2.c the term **“use of chemicals at work”** means any work activity which may expose a worker to a chemical, including: (i) the production of chemicals; (ii) the handling of chemicals; (iii) the storage of chemicals; (iv) the transport of chemicals; (v) the disposal and treatment of waste chemicals; (vi) the release of chemicals resulting from work activities; (vii) the maintenance, repair and cleaning of equipment and containers for chemicals

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### 3. consumption

UNEA R. 5/14 pp10, op3b

#### *Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

**1989** Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (Montreal Protocol) **(198P)**

Art. 1.6 “**Consumption**” means production plus imports minus exports of controlled substances

### 4. cultivation and manufacture

#### *Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

**\*\*2003** World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control **(182P)**

Art. 18 In carrying out their obligations under this Convention, the Parties agree to have due regard to the protection of the environment and the health of persons in relation to the environment in respect of tobacco “**cultivation**” and “**manufacture**” within their respective territories. (see also Art. 20.4 and 20.4.c, 22.1.b.iii, 26.3)

### 5. full- lifecycle approach

#### *Other Definitions*

**2022** UNEP, Plastics science: Note by the secretariat, Intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, First session (UNEP/PP/INC.1/7)

“(Full) life-cycle approach” means considering all potential impacts of all activities and outcomes associated with the production and consumption of plastics, including raw material extraction and processing (for

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plastics: refining; cracking; polymerization), design and manufacturing, packaging, distribution, use and reuse, maintenance and end of life management, including segregation, collection, sorting, recycling, and disposal.

## 6. lifecycle

<i>Other Definitions</i>	
<b>2006 ISO:14040:2006(en) Environmental management – Life cycle assessment – Principles and framework</b>	<b>2009 Directive 2009/125/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for the setting of ecodesign requirements for energy-related products</b>
3.1. <b>“Life cycle”</b> means the consecutive and interlinked stages of a product system, from raw material acquisition or generation from natural resources to final disposal	Art. 2.12 <b>“Life cycle”</b> means the consecutive and interlinked stages of a product system from raw material acquisition or generation from natural resources use to final disposal
<b>**2016 Practical manuals for the promotion of the environmentally sound management of wastes, developed by the Expert Working Group on Environmentally Sound Management under the Basel Convention (UNEP/CHW.13/4/Add.1)</b>	
III. Terminology: the entire <b>“life cycle”</b> from the extraction of natural resources and including material processing, manufacturing, marketing, distribution, use and waste management	

## B. Design

### 1. article

#### KEY

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<i>Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions</i>	
**1990 International Labour Organization (ILO) Chemicals Convention, 1990 (No. 170) (23P)	
Art.2.e. the term “ <b>article</b> ” means an object which is formed to a specific shape or design during its manufacture or which is in its natural shape, and whose use in that form is dependent in whole or in part on its shape or design	
<i>Other Definitions</i>	
2006 EU Regulation 1907/2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals	2012 EU Regulation No 649/2012 concerning the export and import of hazardous chemicals
Art.3.3 “ <b>article</b> ” means an object which during production is given a special shape, surface or design which determines its function to a greater degree than does its chemical composition <sup>iv</sup>	Art.3.4 “ <b>article</b> ” means a finished product containing or including a chemical, the use of which has been banned or severely restricted by Union legislation in that particular product where that product does not fall under point 2 or 3 (“substance” or “mixture”)
2016 ISO 21067:2016(en) Packaging — Vocabulary	
2.1.5 “ <b>article</b> ” item or commodity	

## 2. components and sub-assemblies

<i>Other Definitions</i>
2009 Directive 2009/125/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for the setting of ecodesign requirements for energy-related products
Art. 2.2 “ <b>Components and sub-assemblies</b> ” means parts intended to be incorporated into products which are not placed on the market and/or put into service as individual parts for end-users or the environmental performance of which cannot be assessed independently

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### 3. co-product

#### *Other Definitions*

**2006** ISO:14040:2006(en) Environmental management — Life cycle assessment

3.10 “**co-product**” any of two or more products coming from the same unit process or product system

### 4. ecodesign

#### *Other Definitions*

**1994** European Parliament and Council Directive 94/62/EC of 20 December 1994 on packaging and packaging waste

Art. 2.23 “**ecodesign**” means the integration of environmental aspects into product design with the aim of improving the environmental performance of the product throughout its **whole life cycle**

**2020** ISO 14006:2020 (en) Environmental management systems — Guidelines for incorporating ecodesign

3.2.2 “**ecodesign**” systematic approach that considers **environmental aspects** (3.2.7) in **design and development** (3.2.1) with the aim to reduce adverse **environmental impacts** (3.2.8) throughout the **life cycle** (3.2.4) of a **product** (3.2.3) Note 1 to entry: Other terminology used worldwide includes “environmentally conscious design (ECD)”, “design for environment (DfE)”, “green design” and “environmentally sustainable design”.

### 5. product

#### *Other Definitions*

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<b>2006</b>	<b>ISO:14040:2006(en) Environmental management — Life cycle assessment</b>
3.9	<b>“product”</b> any goods or service Note 1 to entry — The product can be categorized as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• services (e.g., transport);</li> <li>• software (e.g., computer program, dictionary);</li> <li>• hardware (e.g., engine mechanical part);</li> <li>• processed materials (e.g., lubricant).</li> </ul>
<b>2008</b>	<b>Regulation (EC) No 451/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2008 establishing a new statistical classification of products by activity (CPA)</b>
Art.1. 2.	The term <b>“product”</b> shall refer to outputs of economic activities, whether goods or services.
<b>2015</b>	<b>ISO 16620-1:2015(en) Plastics — Biobased content</b>
3.1.8	<b>“product”</b> resins, material, or objects/articles resulting from a production process Note 1 to entry — Product can be a material, semi-finished, or final product, for example, polyethylene resin derived from petroleum or biomass, bioPE film, PET resins, PET bottles, monomers, plasticisers.
<b>2017</b>	<b>Basel Convention Glossary of Terms (UNEP/CHW.13/4/Add.2 adopted by Decision BC-13/2)</b>
	A <b>“product”</b> is a <i>substance</i> or object intentionally produced by or resulting from a process that meets defined characteristics. A product may become a waste if the waste definition applies.

## 6. product design

<i>Other Definitions</i>	
<b>2009</b>	<b>Directive 2009/125/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for the setting of ecodesign requirements for energy-related products</b>
Art. 2.10	<b>“Product design”</b> means the set of processes that transform legal, technical, safety, functional, market or other requirements to be met by a product into the technical specification for that product

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**C. environmentally sound management (EMS)**

<i>Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions</i>
<b>1989</b> Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (Basel Convention) <b>(189P)</b>
Art. 2.8 “ <b>Environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes or other wastes</b> ” means taking all practicable steps to ensure that hazardous wastes or other wastes are managed in a manner which will protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects which may result from such wastes <sup>iv</sup>
<b>1996</b> Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (Hazardous Waste Protocol) <b>(7P)</b>
Art. 1.j “ <b>Environmentally sound management</b> ” of hazardous wastes means taking all practicable steps to ensure that hazardous wastes are collected, transported and disposed of (including after-care of disposal sites) in a manner which will protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects which may result from such wastes
<i>Other Definitions</i>
<b>2006</b> Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 June 2006 on shipments of waste
Art. 2.8 “ <b>environmentally sound management</b> ” means taking all practicable steps to ensure that waste is managed in a manner that will protect human health and the environment against adverse effects which may result from such waste <sup>vi</sup>

**1. intermediate product**

*Other Definitions*

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**2006** ISO:14040:2006(en) Environmental management – Life cycle assessment – Principles and framework

3.23 “**intermediate product**” output from a unit process that is input to other unit processes that require further transformation within the system

## 2. production

### *Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions*

**1989** Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (Montreal Protocol) **(198P)**

Art.1.5 “**Production**” means the amount of controlled substances produced, minus the amount destroyed by technologies to be approved by the Parties and minus the amount entirely used as feedstock in the manufacture of other chemicals. The amount recycled and reused is not to be considered as “production”.

### *Other Definitions*

**\*\*2020** United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Division on International Trade and Commodities Communication to WTO/JOB/TE/63

The “**production**” of plastic and other polymers today embraces a wide set of upstream sectors closely linked to oil and gas refining, and petrochemical industries. Plastic can also be produced from non-fossil fuel inputs, such as cellulose and other biomaterials, but such production today is marginal.

## 3. reuse

### *Other Definitions*

**1994** European Parliament and Council Directive 94/62/EC of 20 December 1994 on packaging and packaging waste

**2009** Directive 2009/125/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for the setting of ecodesign requirements for energy-related

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		products
Art.3.5. <b>“reuse”</b> shall mean any operation by which packaging, which has been conceived and designed to accomplish within its life cycle a minimum number of trips or rotations, is refilled or used for the same purpose for which it was conceived, with or without the support of auxiliary products present on the market enabling the packaging to be refilled; such reused packaging will become packaging waste when no longer subject to reuse;		Art. 2.14 <b>“reuse”</b> <del>shall</del> means <u>any operation by which <del>packaging a product or its components</del>, <del>has been conceived and designed to accomplish within its life cycle a minimum number of trips or rotations</del>, <del>having reached the end of their first use</del>, <del>is refilled or are</del> used for the same purpose for which they were conceived, <del>with or without the support of auxiliary products present on the market enabling the packaging to be refilled</del> such reused packaging will <del>become packaging waste when no longer subject to reuse</del>; including the continued use of a product which is returned to a collection point, distributor, recycler or manufacturer, as well as reuse of a product following refurbishment</u>
2008 ISO 15270:2008 Plastics — Guidelines for the recovery and recycling of plastics waste	2013 ISO 18603:2013(en) Packaging and the environment	2022 ISO 24161:2022(en) Waste collection and transportation management — Vocabulary
3.32 <b>“reuse”</b> use of a product more than once in its original form  Note 1 to entry: In view of the fact that a re-used product has not been discarded, re-use does not constitute a recovery option <sup>lvii</sup>	Packaging and the environment — Reuse <b>“reuse”</b> operation by which packaging is refilled or used for the same purpose for which it was conceived, with or without the support of auxiliary products present on the market enabling	3.1.1.8 <b>“reuse”</b> use an object or material again, either for its original or similar purpose, without significantly altering the physical form of the object or material

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	the packaging to be refilled. Note 1 to entry: Non reusable items that support packaging reuse, such as labels or closures, are considered to be part of that packaging.	
<b>2008</b> Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives		
3.13 “ <b>reuse</b> ” means any operation by which products or components that are not waste are used again for the same purpose for which they were conceived		

#### 4. extended producer responsibility (EPR)

<i>Legally-Binding Definitions</i>
<b>2021</b> Amendments to the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean in the Framework of Article 15 of the Land-Based Sources Protocol (under Barcelona Convention) ( <b>17P</b> )
Article 3.f “ <b>extended producer responsibility</b> ” (“ <b>EPR</b> ”): means a set of measures taken by Contracting Parties to ensure that producers of products bear financial responsibility or financial and organisational responsibility for the management of the waste stage of a product’s life cycle;
<i>Non-Legally Binding Definitions</i>

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2001 OECD Guidance Manual for Governments and Extended Producer Responsibility	2016 OECD Extended Producer Responsibility Updated Guidance for Efficient Waste Management
“ <b>extended producer responsibility</b> ” (“EPR”): an environmental policy approach in which a producer’s responsibility for a product is extended to the post-consumer stage of a product’s life cycle	“ <b>extended producer responsibility</b> ” (“EPR”): an environmental policy approach in which a producer’s responsibility for a product is extended to the post-consumer stage of a product’s life cycle.
2019 Annex I of the Addendum of the Development of guidelines for environmentally sound Management for the Basel Convention (UNEP/CHW.14/5/Add.1) adopted by BRS COP decision BC-14/3	
“ <b>extended producer responsibility</b> ” (“EPR”): Environmental policy approach in which a producer’s responsibility for a product is extended to the waste stage of that product’s life-cycle. In practice, EPR involves producers taking responsibility for the management of products after becoming waste, including: collection; pre-treatment, e.g. sorting, dismantling or de-pollution; (preparation for) reuse; recovery (including recycling and energy recovery) or final disposal. EPR systems can allow producers to exercise their responsibility either by providing the financial resources required and/or by taking over the operational aspects of the process from municipalities. They assume the responsibility voluntarily or mandatorily; EPR systems can be implemented individually or collectively	
2022 ISO 24161:2022(en) Waste collection and transportation management — Vocabulary	
3.1.1.2 “ <b>extended producer responsibility</b> ” “EPR” environmental policy approach in which a producer’s responsibility for a product is extended to the post-consumer stage of a product’s life cycle. Note 1 to entry: An EPR policy is characterized by: a) the shifting of responsibility (physically and/or economically; fully or partially) upstream towards the producer and away from government or municipalities; b) the provision of incentives to producers to take into account environmental considerations when designing their products. Note 2 to entry: An EPR can be only financial or can be financial and operational depending on national laws	

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## a) extended producer responsibility schemes

<i>Other Definitions</i>	
<b>2018</b> Amendment of Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives	
Art. 3.21 “ <b>extended producer responsibility scheme</b> ” “EPR scheme” means a set of measures taken by Member States to ensure that producers of products bear financial responsibility or financial and organisational responsibility for the management of the waste stage of a product’s life cycle.	
<i>Non-Legally Binding Definitions</i>	
<b>2016</b> OECD Extended Producer Responsibility Updated Guidance for Efficient Waste Management	
<u>“EPR schemes” can allow producers to exercise their responsibility either by providing the financial resources required and/or by taking over the operational and organisational aspects of the process from municipalities. They can do so individually or collectively.</u>	

## 5. recycling

<i>Other Definitions</i>	
<b>1994</b> European Parliament and Council Directive 94/62/EC of 20 December 1994 on packaging and packaging waste	<b>2009</b> Directive 2009/125/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for the setting of

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	<b>ecodesign requirements for energy-related products</b>
Art.3.7 <b>“recycling”</b> shall mean the reprocessing in a production process of the waste materials for the original purpose or for other purposes including organic recycling but excluding energy recovery	Art. 2.15 <b>“recycling”</b> <del>shall</del> means the reprocessing in a production process of waste materials for the original purpose or for other purposes <del>including organic recycling</del> but excluding energy recovery <sup>lviii</sup>
<b>2013 ISO 472:2013(en) 2.1706 — Plastics — vocabulary</b>	<b>2022 ISO 24161:2022(en) Waste collection and transportation management — Vocabulary</b>
Entry 2.1706 — <b>“recycling”</b> processing of waste materials for the original purpose or for other purposes, excluding energy recovery	3.1.3.10 <b>“recycling”</b> processing of <del>transforming</del> waste materials <b>into a reusable form which can be similar for to the original purposes product or not excluding energy recovery</b>

## 6. organic recycling

<i>Other Definitions</i>	
<b>1994 European Parliament and Council Directive 94/62/EC of 20 December 1994 on packaging and packaging waste</b>	
Art.3.9. <b>“organic recycling”</b> shall mean the aerobic (composting) or anaerobic (biomethanization) treatment, under controlled conditions and using micro-organisms, of the biodegradable parts of packaging waste, which produces stabilized organic residues or methane. Landfill shall not be considered a form of organic recycling	
<b>2008 ISO 15270:2008 Plastics — Guidelines for the recovery and recycling of plastics waste</b>	<b>2021 ISO 17088:2021 Plastics — Organic recycling — Specifications for compostable plastics</b>

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<p>3.5. <b>“biological recycling”</b> aerobic (composting) or anaerobic (digestion) treatment of biodegradable plastics waste under controlled conditions using micro-organisms to produce, in the presence of oxygen, stabilized organic residues, carbon dioxide and water or, in the absence of oxygen, stabilized organic residues, methane, carbon dioxide and water</p>	<p><del>biological</del> <b>“<u>organic recycling</u>”</b> aerobic (composting) or anaerobic (digestion) treatment of <del>biodegradable</del> plastics waste under controlled conditions using micro-organisms to produce, in the presence of oxygen, stabilized organic residues (<u>compost</u>), carbon dioxide and water or, in the absence of oxygen, stabilized organic residues (<u>compost</u>), methane and carbon dioxide</p> <p>Note 1 to entry: The term “biological recycling” is used synonymously.</p>
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## XI. Definitions Related to Workers Under Informal and Cooperative Settings

### A. cooperative

<i>Other Definitions</i>	
<b>1995</b>	<b>International Cooperative Alliance — Statement of Cooperative Identity, Values &amp; Principles</b>
A <b>“Cooperative”</b> is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise.	

### B. informal economy

<i>Other Definitions</i>	
<b>2002</b>	<b>International Labour Organization (ILO) General Conference 90<sup>th</sup> Session — Resolution concerning decent work and the informal economy</b>
The term <b>“informal economy”</b> refers to all economic activities by workers and economic units that are – in law or in practice – not covered or insufficiently covered by formal arrangements. Their activities are not included in the law, which means that they are operating outside the formal reach of the law; or they are not covered in practice, which means that – although they are operating within the formal reach of the law, the law is not applied or not enforced; or the law discourages compliance because it is inappropriate, burdensome, or imposes excessive costs	
<b>2015</b>	<b>International Labour Organization (ILO) R204 — Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy Recommendation, 2015 (No. 204)</b>
For the purposes of this Recommendation, the term <b>“informal economy”</b> : (a) refers to all economic activities by workers and economic units that are – in law or in practice – not covered or insufficiently covered by formal arrangements; <del>Their activities are not included in the law, which means that they are operating outside the formal reach of the law; or they are not covered in practice, which means that – although they are operating within the formal reach of the law, the law is not applied or not enforced; or the law discourages</del>	

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	<del>compliance because it is inappropriate, burdensome, or imposes excessive costs</del>
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### C. informal recycler

<i>Other Definitions</i>
<b>2022 ISO 24161:2022(en) Waste collection and transportation management — Vocabulary</b>
3.2.1.2 “ <b>informal recycler</b> ” (rag-and-bone man) unlicensed individual collecting <b>recyclables</b> and second-hand goods for <b>reuse</b> or <b>recycling</b>

### D. social and solidarity economy (SSE)

<i>Other Definitions</i>
<b>2022 International Labour Organisation (ILO) International Labour Conference (ILC) 110<sup>th</sup> Session, Resolution concerning decent work and the social and solidarity economy</b>
Par. 2.5 The “ <b>social and solidarity economy (SSE)</b> ” encompasses enterprises, organizations and other entities that are engaged in economic, social, and environmental activities to serve the collective and/or general interest, which are based on the principles of voluntary cooperation and mutual aid, democratic and/or participatory governance, autonomy and independence, and the primacy of people and social purpose over capital in the distribution and use of surpluses and/or profits as well as assets. SSE entities aspire to long-term viability and sustainability, and to the transition from the informal to the formal economy and operate in all sectors of the economy. They put into practice a set of values which are intrinsic to their functioning and consistent with care for people and planet, equality and fairness, interdependence, self-governance, transparency and accountability, and the attainment of decent work and livelihoods. According to national circumstances, the SSE includes cooperatives, associations, mutual societies, foundations, social enterprises, self-help groups and other entities operating in accordance with the values and principles of the SSE.

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## E. waste picker(s)

<i>Other Definitions</i>	
<b>2014</b>	<b>Declaration of the Sixth Latin American and Caribbean Meeting of Waste Recyclers</b>
A “ <b>waste picker</b> ” is a colleague who performs the work of collecting, transportation, sorting, pre-processing and selling of recyclable and usable materials, makes a living from this as the fruit of his work and does not exploit anyone, in other words, he puts his hands in the garbage <u>to earn his livelihood and that of his family</u> . He <u>defines himself as a natural person who exercises the activity of social and popular recycling as his main source of income and profession</u> .	
<b>2019</b>	<b>International Labour Office (ILO) — Cooperatives and the World of Work No. 12: Waste pickers’ cooperatives and social and solidarity economy organizations</b>
“ <b>Waste pickers</b> ” range from people rummaging through garbage in search of food, clothing and other basic, daily needs to informal private collectors of recyclables for sale to middlemen or businesses, as well as organized collectors and sorters of recyclables. The majority of waste pickers deal with municipal solid waste. In recent years waste pickers have also started to recover electrical and electronic waste (e-waste) as an additional source of recyclable material.	
<b>2023</b>	<b>International Alliance of Waste Pickers — submission for INC-2</b>
A. “ <b>Waste pickers</b> ” constitute most of the workers in informal and cooperative settings in the waste sector. Waste pickers can be described as people who participate (individually or collectively) in the collection, separation, sorting, transport, and sale of recyclable and reusable materials and products (paper, plastic, metal, glass, and other materials) in an informal or semi-formal capacity, as own-account workers, or in a cooperative or social and solidarity economy setting, and as workers who subsequently achieved formal work arrangements through their organizations. The description includes itinerant waste pickers, current and former waste- pickers who have new	

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roles and engagement in their organizations, and those who have been integrated into municipal solid waste management systems and continue to retrieve, sort, and sell recyclables.

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## XII. Definitions Related to the Traditional Knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and Local Knowledge Systems

### A. Indigenous knowledge

<i>Other Definitions</i>
<b>2011</b> World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Glossary of Key Terms Related to Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge, and Traditional Cultural Expressions (WIPO/GRTKF/IC/44/INF/7)
<p><b>“Indigenous knowledge”</b> is knowledge held and used by communities, peoples and nations that are “indigenous”. In this sense, “indigenous knowledge” would be the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples. Indigenous knowledge is, therefore, a part of the traditional knowledge category, but traditional knowledge is not necessarily indigenous. Yet the term is also used to refer to knowledge that is itself “indigenous”. In this sense, the terms “traditional knowledge” and “indigenous knowledge” may be interchangeable</p>

### B. Indigenous traditional knowledge

<i>Other Definitions</i>
<b>2009</b> UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) State of the World’s Indigenous Peoples, vol. I (ST/ESA/328)
<p><b>“Indigenous traditional knowledge”</b> refers to the complex bodies and systems of knowledge, know-how, practices and representations maintained and developed by indigenous peoples around the world, drawing on a wealth of experience and interaction with the natural environment and transmitted orally from one generation to the next.</p>

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### C. knowledge, innovations, and practices of indigenous and local communities

<i>Conventions and Legally-Binding Definitions</i>
<b>**1992 Convention on Biological Diversity</b>
Art 8j; In situ Conservation: Each Contracting Party shall, as far as possible and as appropriate: (...) (j) Subject to its national legislation, respect, preserve and maintain <b>“knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities”</b> embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity <sup>ix</sup> and promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices and encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge, innovations and practices

### D. traditional knowledge

<i>Other Definitions</i>
<b>2004 Decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its Seventh Meeting UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/VII/16</b>
II. 6. (h) <b>“Traditional knowledge”</b> refers to the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. <sup>ix</sup>
<b>2011 World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Glossary of Key Terms Related to Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge, and Traditional Cultural Expressions (WIPO/GRTKF/IC/44/INF/7)</b>
<b>“Traditional knowledge”</b> as a broad description of subject matter, generally includes the intellectual and intangible cultural heritage, practices and knowledge systems of traditional communities, including indigenous and local communities (traditional knowledge in a general sense or lato sensu). In other words, traditional

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knowledge in a general sense embraces the content of knowledge itself as well as traditional cultural expressions, including distinctive signs and symbols associated with traditional knowledge. In international debate, “traditional knowledge” in the narrow sense refers to knowledge as such, in particular the knowledge resulting from intellectual activity in a traditional context, and includes know-how, practices, skills, and innovations. Traditional knowledge can be found in a wide variety of contexts, including: agricultural knowledge; scientific knowledge; technical knowledge; ecological knowledge; medicinal knowledge, including related medicines and remedies; and biodiversity-related knowledge, etc.

**\*2022 Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge, and Folklore — Annex of The Protection of Traditional Knowledge: Draft Articles (WIPO/GRTKF/IC/44/4)**

**“Traditional Knowledge”** refers to knowledge originating from indigenous [peoples], local communities and/or [other beneficiaries] that may be dynamic and evolving and is the result of intellectual activity, experiences, spiritual means, or insights in or from a traditional context, which may be connected to land and environment, including know-how, skills, innovations, practices, teaching, or learning.

## E. traditional knowledge systems

### *Other Definitions*

**2019 UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues — Note by the Secretariat — Traditional knowledge: generation, transmission and protection (E/C.19/2019/5)**

The term [**“Traditional knowledge systems”**] is usually understood to refer to complex bodies and systems of knowledge, know-how, practices and representations maintained and developed by indigenous peoples around the world, drawing on a wealth of experience and interaction with the natural environment and transmitted orally from one generation to the next. **“Traditional knowledge systems”** are based on values, beliefs, rituals and community laws and practices, as well as concepts and methods for land and ecosystem management. Some

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knowledge is of a highly sacred nature and therefore sensitive and not publicly available, even to members of the community or people concerned.

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## ENDNOTES

<sup>i</sup> Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, “Recommendation OECD/LEGAL/0152 of the Council for the Implementation of a Regime of Equal Right of Access and Non-Discrimination in Relation to Transfrontier Pollution,” May 1977, <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0152>, Annex, § a) for the same definition.

<sup>ii</sup> Same definition in [1981](#) Lima Convention [\(5P\)](#) Art.2.a; [1982](#) Jeddah Convention [\(7P\)](#) Art. 1.3; [1986](#) Noumea Convention [\(12P\)](#) Art.2; [1992](#) Bucharest Convention [\(6P\)](#) Art.2; [1992](#) OSPAR Convention [\(16P\)](#) Art.1.d; [1995](#) amendment of [1976](#) Barcelona Convention [\(22P\)](#) Art. 2.a; [1994](#) Offshore Protocol [\(8P\)](#) Art.1.f; and [1999](#) Protocol to the Cartagena Convention Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities [\(14P\)](#) Art. 1.cx ; see also United Nations Environment Programme Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) on Plastic Pollution, Glossary of key terms, UNEP/PP/INC.1/6, p.4

<sup>iii</sup> Footnote after the word “the sea” Same as in [\\*\\*1972](#) London Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes & Other Matter [\(87P\)](#) but the source is not “substances” but the dumping of “waste and other matter”

<sup>iv</sup> Same definition as in [2017](#) ISO 14055-1:2017 3.2.1.

<sup>v</sup> Same definition as in [2017](#) ISO 14055-1:2017 3.2.14

<sup>vi</sup> Same definition in 1999 The Gothenburg Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone [\(29P\)](#) Art. 1.13

<sup>vii</sup> Same definition in 1989 Montreal Protocol [\(198P\)](#) Art.1.2

<sup>viii</sup> Same in [1994](#) Oslo Protocol on Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions [\(29P\)](#) Art. 1.8 ; and [1999](#) The Gothenburg Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone [\(29P\)](#) Art. 1.12

<sup>ix</sup> Same as [2019](#) MERCOSUR Technical Regulation sobre lista positiva de aditivos para la elaboración de materiales plásticos y revestimientos poliméricos destinados a entrar en contacto con alimentos GMC/RES. No 39/19: 3.1.

<sup>x</sup> [2022](#) Glossary of Terms, INC Plastics Treaty UNEP Secretariat, UNEP/PP/INC.1 /6

<sup>xi</sup> Same definition as in [2019](#) EU Directive 2019/904 on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment: Art.3.1

<sup>xii</sup> Same definition as in [2015](#) EU Directive (EU) 2015/720 reducing the consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags

<sup>xiii</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, “Resolution 7.6, Priorities for the conservation of seabirds in the African-Eurasian Flyways”, Seventh Session December 2018, [https://www.unep-aewa.org/sites/default/files/document/aewa\\_mop7\\_6\\_seabirds\\_en.pdf](https://www.unep-aewa.org/sites/default/files/document/aewa_mop7_6_seabirds_en.pdf) welcomed it.

<sup>xiv</sup> Same definition as in [2019](#) EU Directive 2019/904 on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment: Art.3.1

<sup>xv</sup> Same definition as in [2020](#) ISO/TR 21960 3.2; [2021](#) ISO 17088:2021, 32; [2021](#) ISO 16929:2021(en), 32

<sup>xvi</sup> Same definition in [2008](#) EU Regulation No 1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, Art. 2.121

<sup>xvii</sup> Same definition in [2008](#) EU Regulation No 1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, Art. 2.11

<sup>xviii</sup> [2011](#) EU Regulation 10/2011 Article 2.1. This Regulation shall apply to materials and articles which are placed on the EU market and fall under the following categories: materials and articles and parts thereof consisting exclusively of plastics; (b) plastic multi-layer materials and articles held together by adhesives or by other means; (c) materials and articles referred to in points a) or b) that are printed and/or covered by a coating; (d) plastic layers or plastic coatings, forming

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gaskets in caps and closures, that together with those caps and closures compose a set of two or more layers of different types of materials; (e) plastic layers in multi-material multi-layer materials and articles.)

<sup>xix</sup> Same definition as in [2020](#) ISO/TR 21960 3.2; Scope under [ISO/TC 61 - Plastics](#): Standardization of nomenclature, methods of test, and specifications applicable to materials and products in the field of plastics including processing (of products) by assembly in particular, but not limited to, polymeric adhesives, sealing, joining, welding. Excluded: rubber, lacquers. Note 1: By agreement, standards in relation to thermoplastic elastomers are developed and maintained by [ISO/TC 45 - Rubber and rubber products](#) and by [ISO/TC 61 - Plastics](#). Note 2: Jointing technology (including equipment and training) between plastic pipes (including all types of reinforced plastics), and/or fittings, valves and auxiliary equipment, and the assessment of the properties of the resulting joints are developed and maintained by ISO/TC 138.

<sup>xx</sup> Similar definition as in [2019](#) EU Directive 2019/904 on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment: Art.3.1, but include “items and products”, instead of product.

<sup>xxi</sup> Same definition as in [2012](#) IUPAC Terminology for biorelated polymers and applications, 78.

<sup>xxii</sup> Same as in [2022](#) Appendix I UNEP Plastics Science UNEP/PP/INC.1/7

United Nations Environment Programme Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) on Plastic Pollution, Plastics science, UNEP/PP/INC.1/7, Appendix I

<sup>xxiii</sup> Same definition in [2006](#) EU Regulation 1907/2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals Art.3.2 [2008](#) EU Regulation No 1272/2008 on classification, labeling and packaging of substances and mixtures, Art. 2.7; [2012](#) EU Regulation 528/2012 on the making available on the market and use of biocidal products: Art. 3.2.b; and [2012](#) EU Regulation No 649/2012 concerning the export and import of hazardous chemicals: Art.3.3

<sup>xxiv</sup> The IMO Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR) is considering options of rules to be put in place to address the release of plastic pellets in the marine environment. This sessions will be discussed at the end of April 2023 and includes a proposal “to reduce the environmental risks associated with the shipping of plastic pellets in packaged form would be to amend the criteria for the identification of harmful substances in MARPOL Annex III to ensure that plastic pellets are identified as a harmful substance.”

<sup>xxv</sup> Replacing similar definition as in [1996](#) Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by Sea, [\(14R\\*\)](#), Art.1.5 with some changes.

<sup>xxvi</sup> Same definition in [2003](#) Tehran Framework Convention [\(5P\)](#) Art. 1.

<sup>xxvii</sup> Same definition in [2006](#) EU Regulation 1907/2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals Art.3.2 [2008](#) EU Regulation No 1272/2008 on classification, labeling and packaging of substances and mixtures, Art. 2.7; [2012](#) EU Regulation 528/2012 on the making available on the market and use of biocidal products: Art. 3.2.b; and [2012](#) EU Regulation No 649/2012 concerning the export and import of hazardous chemicals: Art.3.3

<sup>xxviii</sup> Similar definition in [1996](#) Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal [\(7P\)](#) Art. 1.c and [2021](#) Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean in the Framework of Article 15 of the Land Based Sources Protocol (under Barcelona Convention) [\(17P\)](#) Art. 3.4.u, [1998](#) Protocol on the Control of Marine Transboundary Movements and Disposal of Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes to the Kuwait Convention [\(6P\)](#) and [2022](#); see also Glossary of Terms, INC Plastics Treaty UNEP Secretariat; see also UNEP/PP/INC.1/6 → United Nations Environment Programme Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) on Plastic Pollution, Glossary of key terms, UNEP/PP/INC.1/6

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- xxix Same definitions in [2001](#) Waigani Convention [\(12P\)](#) Art. 1
- xxx Same definition as in [2001](#) OECD Council Decision C(2001)107/FINAL concerning the revision of the Council [1992](#) Decision C(92)39/FINAL on the Control of Transfrontier Movements of Wastes Destined for Recovery Operations (Last amendment in [2021](#)) (38A)
- xxxi Same as [2008](#) ISO 15270:2008 Plastics — Guidelines for the recovery and recycling of plastics waste: 3.34
- xxxii Same definitions in [2001](#) Waigani Convention [\(12P\)](#) Art. 1
- xxxiii Same definition for [1999](#) EU Directive 1999/31/EC on the landfill of waste: Art.2.a; [2012](#) EU Directive 2012/19/EU waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) Art. 3.2 and [2006](#) EU Directive 2006/21/EC on the management of waste from extractive industries: Art. 3.1 , 3.2; [2016](#) EU Directive 2016/2284 on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants Art.3.17; [2018](#) EU Directive 2018/2001 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources Art.2.23; \*[2022](#) Proposal EU Regulation establishing a framework for setting ecodesign requirements for sustainable products: Art.2; 2022 EU Regulation 2022/1616 on recycled plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with foods, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 282/2008 Art.2.2.1
- xxxiv [2022](#) Glossary of Terms, INC Plastics Treaty UNEP Secretariat, UNEP/PP/INC.1/6  
United Nations Environment Programme Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) on Plastic Pollution, Glossary of key terms, UNEP/PP/INC.1/6
- xxxv [2022](#) Glossary of Terms, INC Plastics Treaty UNEP Secretariat, UNEP/PP/INC.1/6  
United Nations Environment Programme Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) on Plastic Pollution, Glossary of key terms, UNEP/PP/INC.1/6
- xxxvi Same definitions in [1976](#) Protocol for the prevention of pollution of the Mediterranean sea by dumping from ships and aircraft [\(21P\)](#) Art. 3.2. and [1996](#) London Protocol (amended [2006](#)) [\(53P\)](#) Art. 1.8
- xxxvii Same definition as in the [2021](#) Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean in the Framework of Article 15 of the Land Based Sources Protocol (under Barcelona Convention) [\(17P\)](#) Art. 3.h
- xxxviii Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP), Guidelines for the Monitoring and Assessment of Plastic Litter in the Ocean (2019), <http://www.gesamp.org/publications/guidelines-for-the-monitoring-and-assessment-of-plastic-litter-in-the-ocean> containing the same definition.
- xxxix Same approach in [1996](#) Hazardous Waste Protocol Art. 1.e.; [1998](#) Protocol on the Control of Marine Transboundary Movements and Disposal of Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes to the Kuwait Convention [\(6P\)](#) Art.2.3 and [2001](#) Waigani Convention [\(12P\)](#) Art. 1.
- xl Same definition for the [1999](#) EU Directive 1999/31/EC on the landfill of waste: Art.2.a
- xli Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, “Decision C(2001)107/final Of The Council Concerning The Revision Of Decision C(92)39/final On The Control Of Transboundary Movements Of Wastes Destined For Recovery Operations”, March 2004, (Last amendment in [2021](#)), [https://one.oecd.org/document/C\(2001\)107/FINAL/en/pdf](https://one.oecd.org/document/C(2001)107/FINAL/en/pdf), Chapter II distinguishes between “disposal and “recovery”. Part A.4 “Recovery” means any of the operations specified in Appendix 5.B to this Decision. “distinguishes between “disposal” and “recovery operations. [2001](#) OECD Council Decision C(2001)107/FINAL concerning the revision of the Council [1992](#) Decision C(92)39/FINAL on the Control of Transfrontier Movements of Wastes Destined for Recovery Operations (Last amendment in [2021](#)) (38A) 4. “Recovery” means any of the operations specified in Appendix 5.B to this Decision
- xlii Same as [2006](#) EU Regulation No 1013/2006 on shipments of waste: Art. 2.4 and [2017](#) EU Regulation (EU) 2017/852 on mercury: Art.2.8

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- xliii R\*: [2021](#) Amendment 1976 Protocol for the prevention of pollution of the Mediterranean sea by dumping from ships and aircraft: Annex A.9: The factors to be considered in establishing criteria governing the issue of permits for the dumping of matter at sea taking into account Article 6 include: (...) Presence of marine litter/debris (e.g. plastic materials, micro-litter, etc.).
- xliv R\*: [2021](#) Amendment 1976 Protocol for the prevention of pollution of the Mediterranean sea by dumping from ships and aircraft: Annex A.9: The factors to be considered in establishing criteria governing the issue of permits for the dumping of matter at sea taking into account Article 6 include: (...) Presence of marine litter/debris (e.g. plastic materials, micro-litter, etc.).
- xlv Same definition in [1986](#) Noumea Convention [\(12P\)](#) Art.2.b
- xlvi Same definition in [1998](#) Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-range transboundary air pollution on Heavy Metals [\(35P\)](#) Art.1.8; [1999](#) The Gothenburg Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone [\(29P\)](#) Art. 1
- xlvii Same in [2012](#) Moscow Protocol [\(4R\\*\)](#) Art. 2.j
- xlviii Same in [2009](#) Protocol on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Black Sea from Land-Based Sources and Activities [\(1R\\*\)](#)
- xlix Similar definition in [2022](#) Appendix I UNEP Plastics Science UNEP/PP/INC.1/7, “United Nations Environment Programme Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) on Plastic Pollution, Plastics Science, UNEP/PP/INC.1/7, Appendix I contains a similar definition.
- <sup>i</sup> Same definition in [1999](#) Protocol on Water and Health to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes [\(27P\)](#) Art. 2.5 and 2.7
- <sup>ii</sup> Same definition as in [2022](#) Glossary of Terms, INC Plastics Treaty UNEP Secretariat, UNEP/PP/INC.1/6 United Nations Environment Programme Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) on Plastic Pollution, Glossary of key terms, UNEP/PP/INC.1/6 contains the same definition.
- <sup>iii</sup> Same definition in [1996](#) Hazardous Waste Protocol Art. 1.f.; [1998](#) Protocol on the Control of Marine Transboundary Movements and Disposal of Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes to the Kuwait Convention [\(6P\)](#), Art. 2.3; [2001](#) Waigani Convention [\(12P\)](#) Art. 1., but instead of “State”, refers to “a party”
- <sup>liii</sup> United Nations Environment Assembly, “Resolution UNEP/EA.5/Res.11, Enhancing circular economy as a contribution to achieving sustainable consumption and production,” March 2022, <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/39920/ENHANCING%20CIRCULAR%20ECONOMY%20AS%20A%20CONTRIBUTION%20TO%20ACHIEVING%20SUSTAINABLE%20CONSUMPTION%20AND%20PRODUCTION.%20English.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y> containing the same definition without the sentence “one of the current sustainable economic models.”
- <sup>liv</sup> Same definition in [2008](#) EU Regulation No 1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, Art. 2.9
- <sup>lv</sup> Same definition as in [2022](#) Glossary of Terms, INC Plastics Treaty UNEP Secretariat, UNEP/PP/INC.1/6 United Nations Environment Programme Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) on Plastic Pollution, Glossary of key terms, UNEP/PP/INC.1/6 contains the same definition.
- <sup>lvi</sup> Same definition within [\\*2021](#) EU Commission Waste Shipment Regulation Proposal Art 3.4.
- <sup>lvii</sup> Same definition in [2013](#) ISO 472:2013 2.1708
- <sup>lviii</sup> Similar
- <sup>lix</sup> Similar definitions as in [2022](#) Glossary of Terms, INC Plastics Treaty UNEP Secretariat, UNEP/PP/INC.1/6

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United Nations Environment Programme Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) on Plastic Pollution, Glossary of key terms, UNEP/PP/INC.1/6 contains a similar definition.

<sup>ix</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, “DECISION CBD/COP/DEC/14/13, Glossary of relevant key terms and concepts within the context of Article 8(j) and related provisions”, Fourteenth Meeting November 2018, <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-14/cop-14-dec-13-en.pdf> containing the same definition.

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