National Guidance for Plastic Pollution Hotspotting and Shaping Action

Why This Guidance
This guidance will provide a common methodological framework to enable countries to prioritize interventions to abate plastic pollution, through the identification of hotspots on plastic leakage and impacts along the full value chain.

What Are the 3 Key Elements
Identifying key areas of interventions requires a hotspot analysis as well as converging on instruments for implementations.

1. A component of the system that directly or indirectly contributes to the magnitude of plastic leakage and/or its impacts. It can be a component of the system, a type of product/polymer or a region within the country.

2. An action that can be taken to mitigate the leakage from a given hotspot or reduce its impacts.

3. A practical way to implement the intervention and enable progress.

Examples
- Low recycling rate for flexible packaging
- Single-use plastic bags
- Low waste collection rate in rural areas
- Implement better eco-design + chemical recycling
- Reduce plastic bag use in the country
- Increase waste collection
- Develop funding mechanism through EPR scheme
- Ban on plastic bags / introduce re-usable alternative
- Help local waste pickers to create a revenue stream

When Will It Be Ready

2018-2019 Developing the Guidance
Late 2019 Critical Review
Early 2020 Publication of the Guidance
Late 2020 Revised Guidance & Modules and Tools Made Public

Pilot Testing
The methodology will be pilot tested in 10 countries and one city in 2019-2020, among them: Cyprus, Kenya, Mauritius, Menorca, Mozambique, Sao Paulo (Brazil), South Africa, Thailand, and Vietnam.
**HOW DOES IT WORK**

Countries, sub-regions and cities will be guided through a technical stream (6 modules) and a strategic decision making stream (3 modules).

**Technical stream:** preparatory quantitative analysis at national, sub-national or local level, focused on hotspot diagnosis.

**Strategic stream:** strategic planning and guidance on developing action plans for change.

**TECHNICAL STREAM**

- **T1** INPUTS & OUTPUTS: KEY PLASTIC APPLICATIONS
- **T2** WASTE & WASTE-WATER MANAGEMENT
- **T3** LEAKAGE IN THE FORM OF MACROPLASTICS
- **T4** LEAKAGE IN THE FORM OF MICROPLASTICS
- **T5** IMPACTS, MATERIALITY & AVOIDABILITY
- **T6** REGIONAL MAPPING

**STRATEGIC STREAM**

- **S1** IDENTIFYING HOTSPOTS
- **S2** CONSIDERING INTERVENTIONS
- **S3** CONVERGING ON INSTRUMENTS

**KEY QUESTION**

- What are the key plastic flows, polymers and applications found?
- What are the main sources of leakage and impact?
- What are the most relevant interventions for your hotspots within the country context?
- How can these interventions be effectively implemented?

**KEY OUTPUT**

- BETTER DATA KNOWLEDGE/UNDERSTANDING
- POTENTIAL HOTSPOTS
- KEY HOTSPOTS
- KEY INTERVENTIONS IDENTIFIED
- ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED & MONITORED

**ADDED VALUE OF THE GUIDANCE**

- **HOLISTIC** Addresses all types of plastic leakage, including:
  
  - Mismanaged waste (single use, packaging, others)
  - Primary microplastics from abrasion (tyres, textiles, others) and intentionally used (cosmetics)
  - Accidentally lost plastics (fishing nets, primary pellets)

- **SYSTEMIC** Helps key stakeholders to develop a systemic approach for solving the plastic leakage
  
  - On one hand, the granularity allows to target specific polymers or plastic applications
  - On the other hand, the life cycle perspective enables to encompass the full plastic value chain

- **ACTIONABLE** Guides the user through a reproducible workflow including data-collection, diagnostic, planning and implementation tools
  
  - Provides a clear structure to engage multiple stakeholders in an otherwise complex process
  - Helps prioritize the data-collection effort on what is really relevant for turning the tide on plastic pollution

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