

Reusable Packaging Standards:

Input on the potential areas of intersessional work to inform the work of INC-3

Submitted by:

PR3, RESOLVE's Partnership to Reuse, Refill, Replace Single-Use Packaging

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Contact:

Claudette Juska cjuska@resolv-advisor.org

Web: <https://www.resolve.ngo/>

Inputs relating to:

Contact Group 1

Information on criteria, also considering different applications and sectoral requirements:

Design e.g. for circularity, reuse

PR3: Partnership to Reuse, refill, Replace Single-Use Packaging, a programme of RESOLVE, an NGO established in the U.S., is grateful for the opportunity to provide input into the Zero Draft in preparation for INC3 to be held in Nairobi, Kenya in November 2023.

There is a growing consensus that single-use packaging is a primary cause of the combined plastic and climate crises, and that reuse is the most effective solution. PR3's mission is to **enable and accelerate the scaling of reuse systems** around the world.

In keeping with the **Waste Management Hierarchy**, which ranks waste prevention and minimization at the top, and which identifies reuse as the preferred management approach to avoid the generation of wastes, we believe that the Zero Draft should prioritize **reuse of plastic items, especially packaging items**, as the first and foremost solution to prevent the waste generation. Furthermore, we believe also that reuse should remain a **standing item** reflected in the successive drafts for consideration at INC4 and INC5 in Ottawa and Republic of Korea respectively.

Reusable packaging requires a system of infrastructure and this system should be built around a shared set of standards. Standards can ensure new systems are equitable and accessible across diverse populations and achieve environmental, social, or financial performance. Standards accelerate the scaling of new systems by de-risking investment and boosting consumer confidence and behaviour change.

We urge the INC to act in a manner that **reuse and reusable packaging standards are central** to its deliberations - until and during the Diplomatic Conference which should adopt at the end of 2024 the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution including in the marine environment.

We respectfully submit **PR3 Reusable Packaging Standards** which are beginning to move through the **ISO process with 62 global participants**, including multinational corporations,

small and medium-size reuse service providers, environmental justice and community leaders, as well as subnational and national authorities.

PR3 Reusable Packaging Standards are [available online](#). They are **living documents** which we look forward to further improving with delegations and other stakeholders as a contribution to the development of the international legally binding instrument. **Core normative standards include:** Reusable packaging return points, Container design, Digital management, Return incentives, Labelling, Reverse logistics, and Washing, sanitation and handling of foodware.

We also propose a **Reuse Organization** be established and funded by the Conference of the Parties to focus on reuse systems and infrastructure and serve the following functions:

- Promote and safeguard standards for returnable packaging systems that are interoperable, inclusive and accessible, and that emphasize local jobs;
- Administer technical assistance, technology transfer, and capacity building across jurisdictions;
- Provide financial support, training, and other resources for workers transitioning into the reuse sector;
- Consolidate, report, and evaluate metrics to ensure social, environmental, and economic benefits of reuse systems;
- Identify need for reuse standards in additional sectors of global commerce;
- Advocate for and evolve the vision and implementation for reuse.

We shall welcome expressions of interest from INC3 participants wishing to discuss and/or contribute to this work.

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