

LAUNCH AND PANEL DISCUSSION

Global Criteria to Address Problematic, Unnecessary and Avoidable Plastic Products

1 Feb 2024 | 14:00 - 15:30 CET | Online (Webex)

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Diana RIZZOLIO

Coordinator, Geneva Environment Network

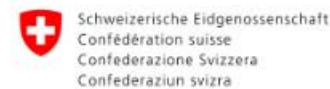
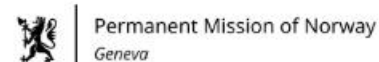


GENEVA

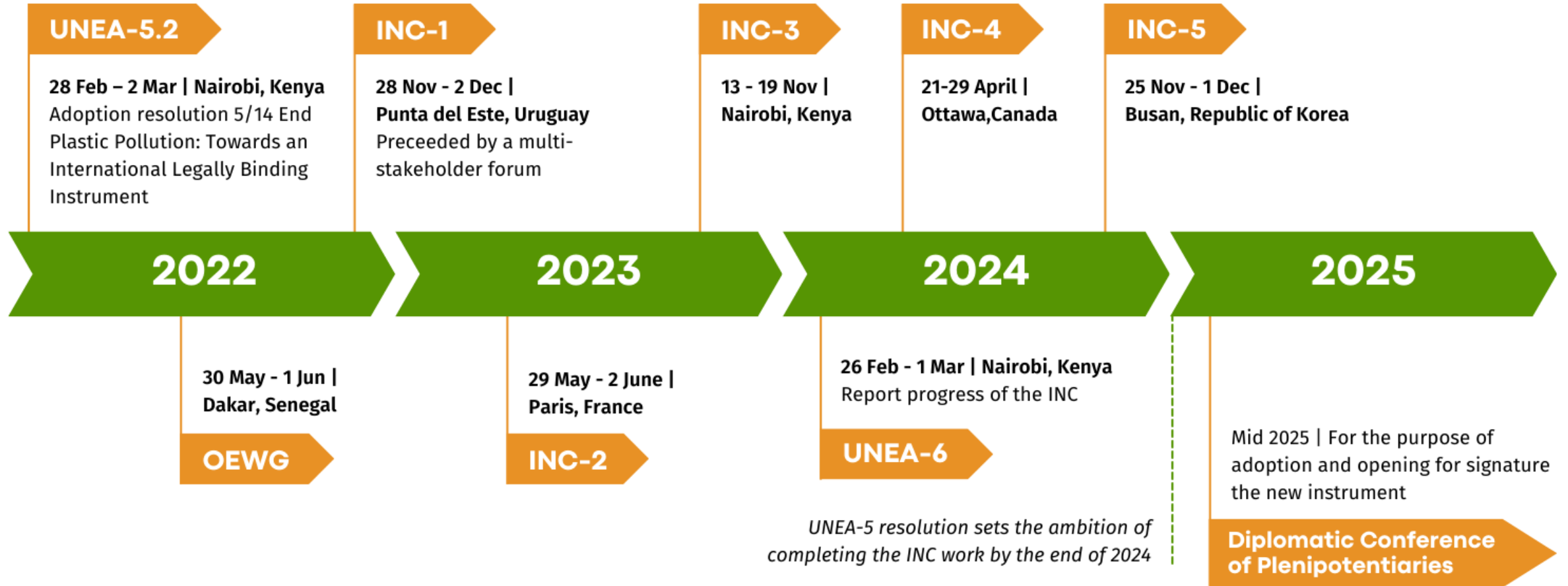
BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION

DIALOGUES

www.tiny.cc/GENBeatPlasticPollution



End Plastic Pollution: Looking forward



GENEVA BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION DIALOGUES

Major Milestones for 2024



Sessions of the Geneva Beat Plastic Pollution Dialogues

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SPEAKERS

By order of intervention. Additional speaker to be confirmed.



Erlend DRAGET



Lead Negotiator / Focal Point, INC Plastic Pollution | Ministry of Climate and the Environment, Norway



Karen RAUBENHEIMER



Lecturer at Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS), University of Wollongong



Llorenç MILÀ I CANALS



Head, Life Cycle Initiative Secretariat, UNEP



Mahesh SUGATHAN



Senior Policy Advisor, TESS



Eirik LINDEBJERG



Global Plastic Policy Lead, WWF



Walter SCHULDT



Minister, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Ecuador to the UN Office and other international organizations in Geneva



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Multilateral Cooperation Officer, Rwanda Environment Management Authority



David CARROLL



External Affairs Director, Plastics Europe



David AZOULAY



Director of the Geneva Office and of the Environmental Health Program, Center for International Environmental Law | Moderator





 Nordic Council
of Ministers

**Global criteria to address
problematic, unnecessary
and avoidable plastic
products**



Nordic Council
of Ministers

**Global Criteria to Address
Problematic, Unnecessary and
Avoidable Plastic Products**

Karen Raubenheimer & Niko Urho



TECHNICAL INFORMATION

- Throughout the event, you may raise your questions in the Q&A box.
- Automatically translated subtitles in many languages are available through the captions button on the bottom left of your screen.
- The recording, summary and documents will be made available on the event's website.

ENGLISH CAPTIONS CAN BE ACTIVATED BY CLICKING ON THE BUTTON ON THE LEFT-SIDE OF THE BOTTOM BAR ON THE SCREEN.



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AGENDA

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Opening Remarks

- Erlend DRAGET | Lead Negotiator / Focal Point, INC Plastic Pollution, Ministry of Climate and the Environment, Norway
- Walter SCHULDT | Minister, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Ecuador to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Overview by Lead Authors | Key Findings and Recommendations from the Report

- Karen RAUBENHEIMER | Senior Lecturer at Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS), University of Wollongong
- Niko URHO | Independent Consultant

Keynote Address | The Global Impact of PUAs and the Challenges in Managing Them

- Llorenç MILÀ I CANALS | Head, Life Cycle Initiative Secretariat, UNEP

Panel Discussion | Exploring Challenges, Opportunities & Diverse Perspectives on Controlling PUA Plastics

- Patrick UMUHOZA | Multilateral Cooperation Officer, Rwanda Environment Management Authority
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OPENING REMARKS

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
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Erlend DRAGET

Lead Negotiator / Focal Point, INC Plastic Pollution |
Ministry of Climate and the Environment, Norway

 Norwegian Ministry
of Climate and Environment

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OVERVIEW BY LEAD AUTHORS

KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE REPORT

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Global criteria to address problematic, unnecessary and avoidable plastic products

Report launch | 1 February 2024

Funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers



UNIVERSITY
OF WOLLONGONG
AUSTRALIA



Introduction

- A. Report scope and structure
- B. The role of global criteria
- C. Principles and definitions used in the report
- D. Potential criteria for PUA plastic products
- E. Procedures and mechanisms for listings



A. Scope and structure



Scope of criteria

In scope

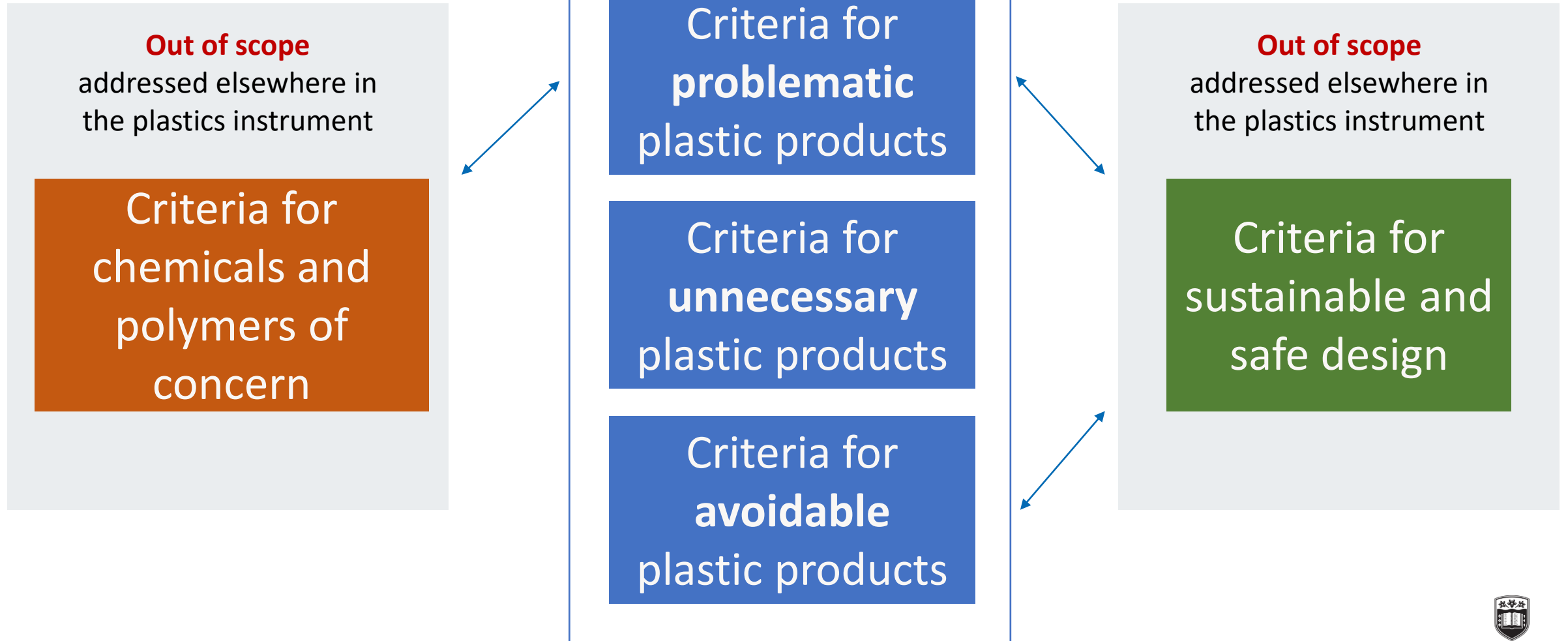
Criteria for
problematic
plastic products

Criteria for
unnecessary
plastic products

Criteria for
avoidable
plastic products



Scope of criteria



Structure of the report

1. Summary of current restrictions of products, polymers and monomers
 - Expanded in Appendix 1
2. Selection of classifications and criteria
3. Potential criteria
 - Problematic
 - Unnecessary
 - Avoidable
4. Process for determining and listing products
 - Simple decision hierarchy
 - Product exceptions and exemptions
 - Application of criteria at global and national levels
5. Institutional arrangements



B. Role of global criteria



Two roles for
global criteria

1. Mandatory measures

- for *listed* products

- Basis for identifying, nominating and listing products

2. Voluntary measures

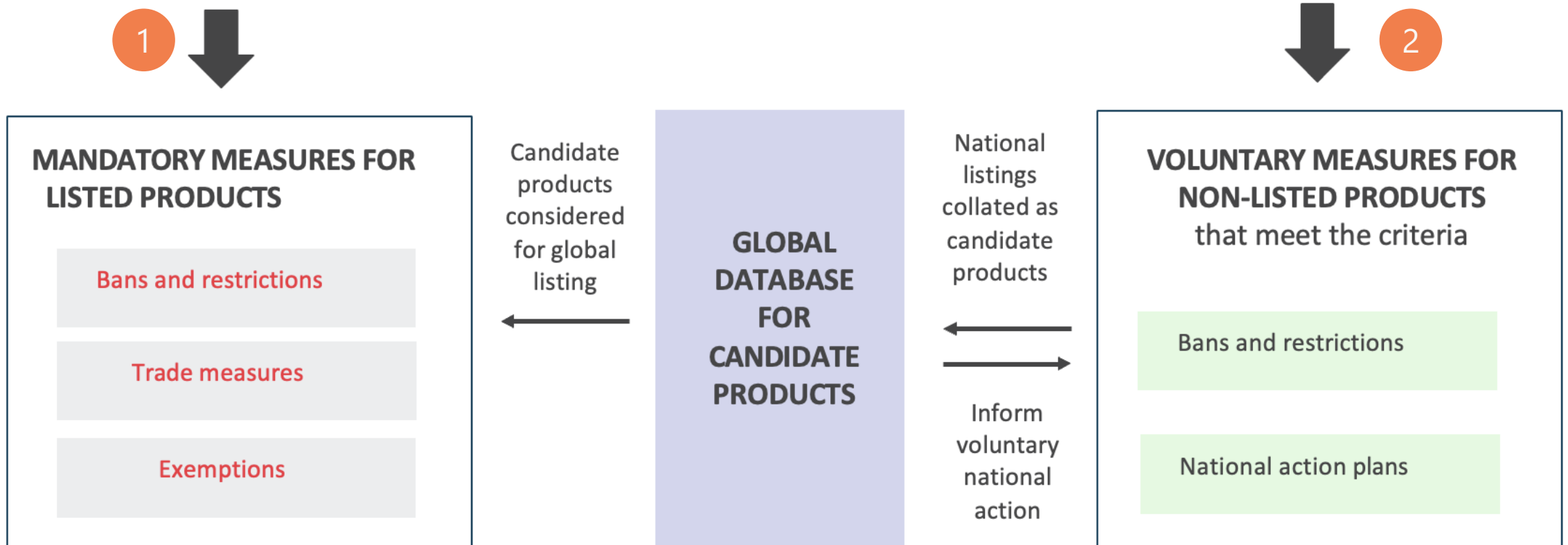
- for *non-listed* products

- Action at national level

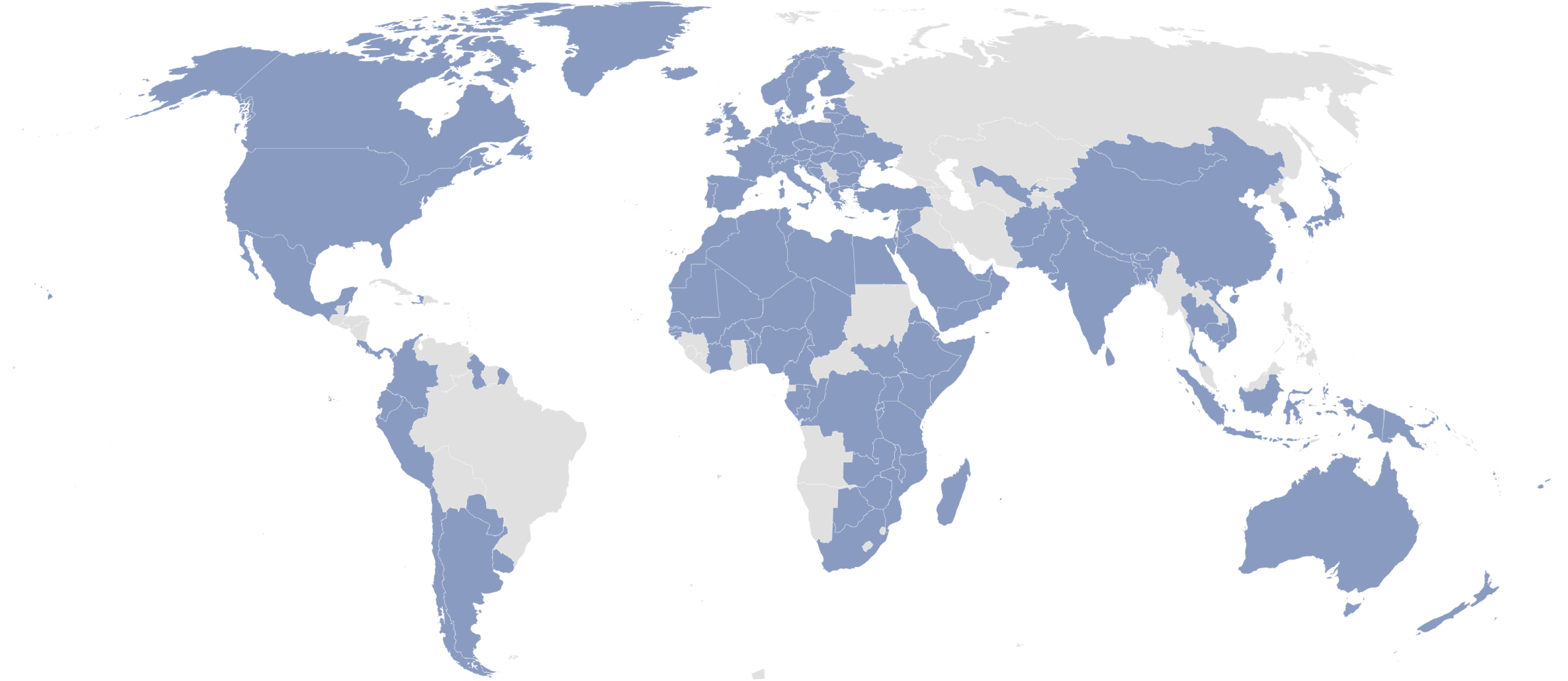


Two roles for global criteria

Global criteria for PUAs under the plastics instrument



Current level of action



C. Principles and definitions



Principles

- Consider full life cycle of products
- Include a wide range of products
- Flexible to capture new products
- Differentiate between the 3 classifications of problematic, unnecessary and avoidable
- Avoid overlap with criteria for hazard/of concern and sustainable design
- Not limited by
 - Lack of information
 - Technology
 - Economic feasibility
- Stimulate innovation
- Recognise variations in waste management, leakage rates
- Act in isolation



Three classifications of products

1. Problematic
2. Unnecessary
3. Avoidable

Draft plastics
instrument:
“Problematic
&
Avoidable”



Definitions

Problematic plastic products

- products which have adverse impacts across the life cycle of the products (environmental and human health)

Unnecessary plastic products

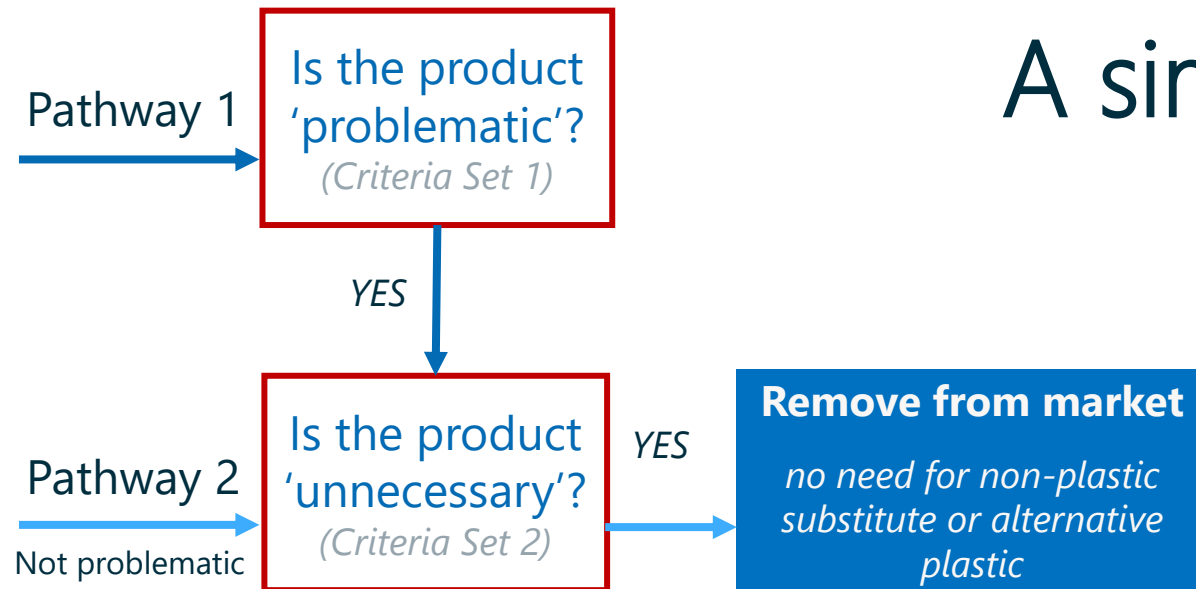
- products with a function that is not essential because they do not provide significant added value to society

Avoidable plastic products

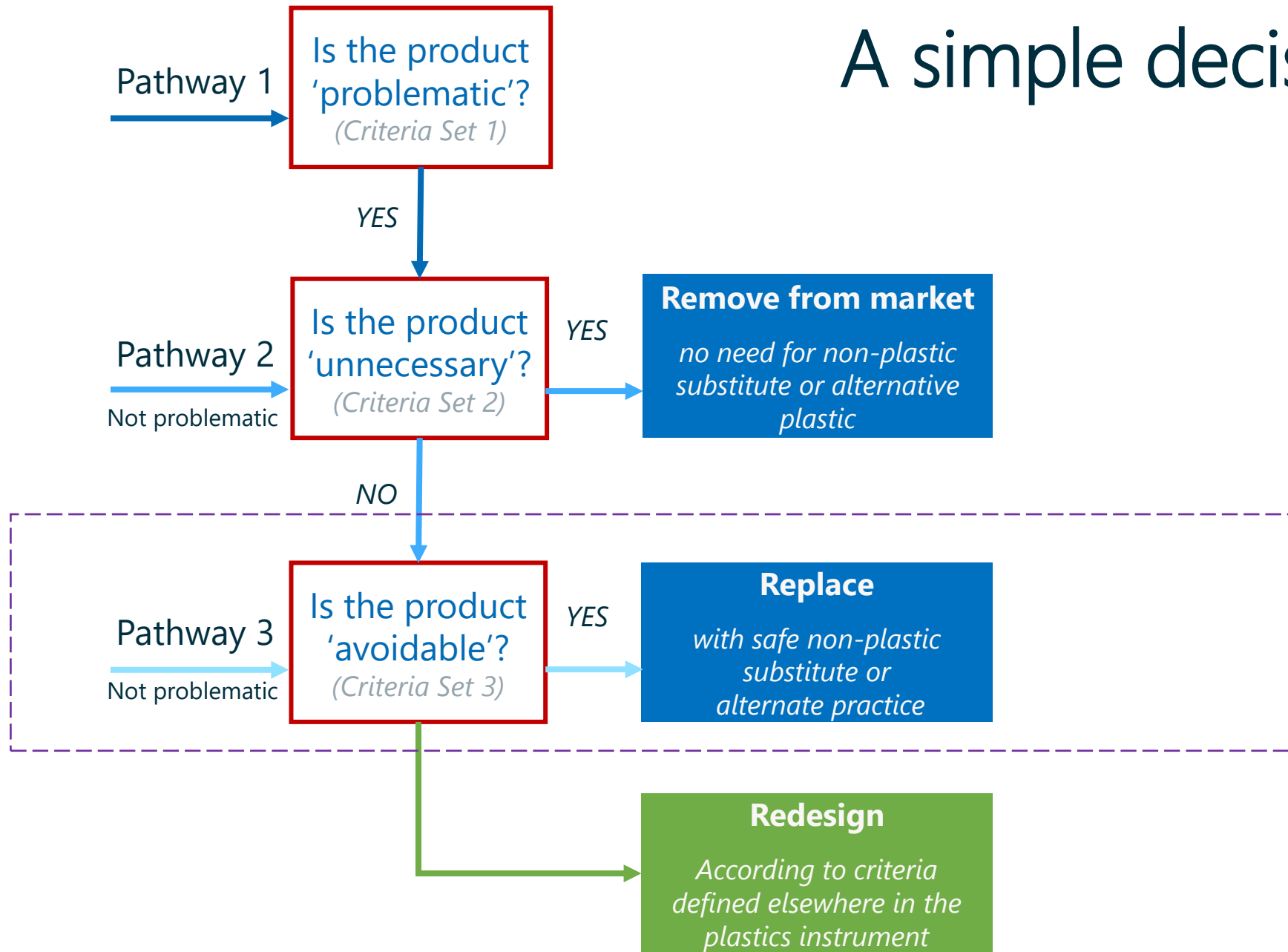
- products with a function that is essential, but demand for the product can be reduced through non-plastic substitutes, alternate designs and alternate practices



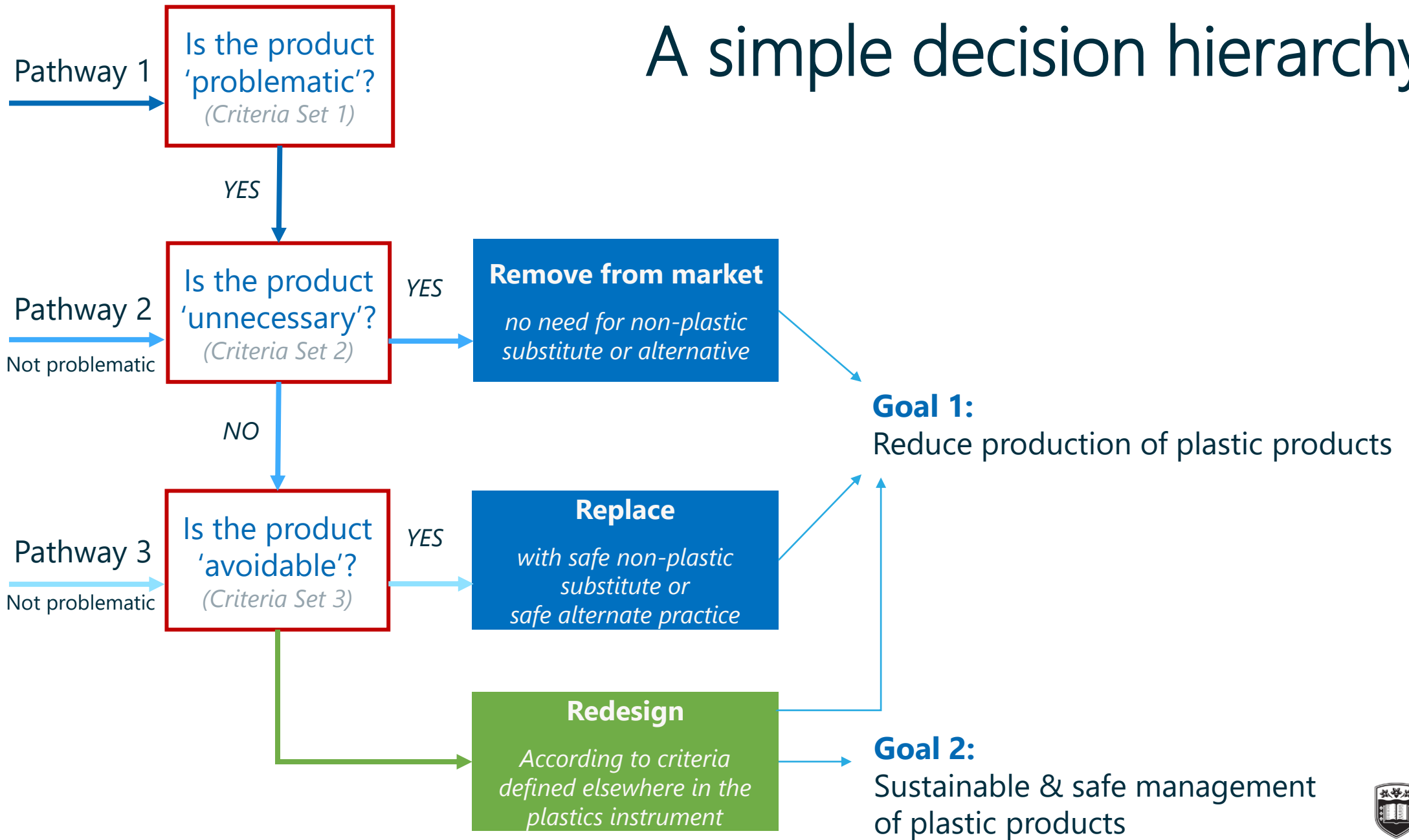
A simple decision hierarchy



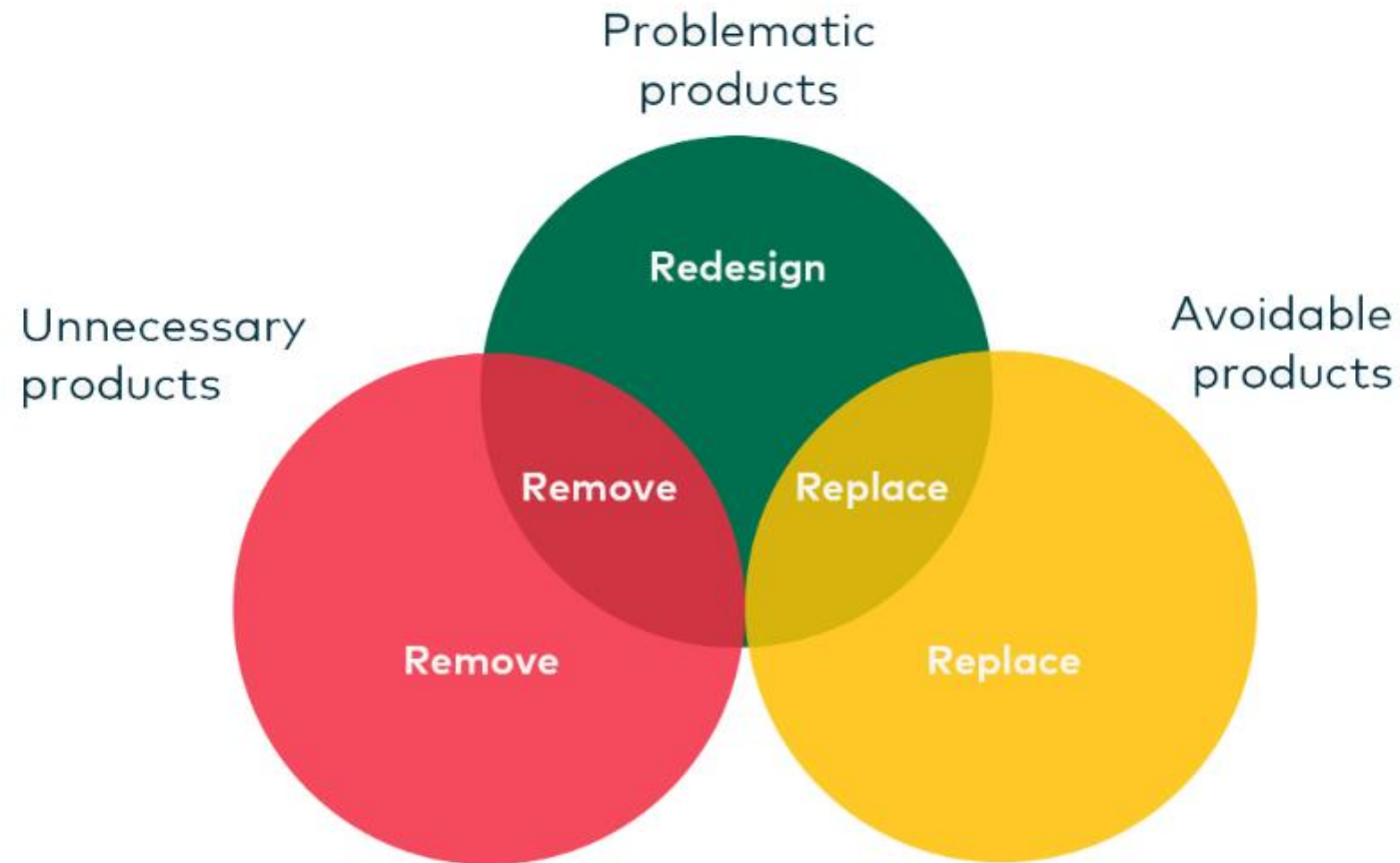
A simple decision hierarchy



A simple decision hierarchy



Risk management options



D. Potential criteria



Potential criteria for determining problematic plastic products

Hazards

- contains chemicals or polymers of concern, including those derived from secondary plastics, or represents a health or environmental hazard
-

Emissions generation

- releases nano-, micro- and macroplastics during its production, intended use or end-of-life
 - releases chemicals of concern during its intended use
 - falsely promoted to be biodegradable under certain conditions
 - Tendency to be dispersed to the environment due to direct application in nature
-

Impediment of circularity

- non-recyclable as per established recyclability criteria
 - high likelihood of not being collected and a high likelihood of not being properly disposed of or managed
 - does not conform with existing labelling schemes to guide correct end-of-life treatment, (including for easy identification, sorting and separation), impeding circularity and leading to avoidable production of the product
-

Lack of transparency

- lacks data to determine safety to environment and human health across full life cycle



Potential criteria for determining unnecessary plastic products

towards elimination

Availability or potential for availability of alternate practices that do not require plastic

- Feasible and safe modified/alternate practices are available or possible that eliminate the need for the plastic product
-

Availability or potential for availability of alternate designs that remove plastic component/s

- The product has plastic components that can be removed without requiring a replacement or compromising the primary function of the product



Potential criteria for determining avoidable plastic products

towards reduction

Availability or potential for availability of alternate practices that reduce the need for new versions of the product

- A feasible reuse or refill business model is available or can be developed
- A feasible remanufacture business model exists or can be developed
- The lifespan of the product can be extended

Availability or potential for availability of non-plastic substitutes that reduce the need for the product

-
- The product can be replaced completely with a nature-based product.
 - The product can be produced using a non-plastic substitute material.

Availability or potential for availability of alternate designs that reduces the need for new versions of the product

-
- Options for improved resource efficiency exist or can be developed, including extending the longevity of the product



Examples of plastic products

- Single use plastic products
 - Plastic-coated paper cup
 - Plastic teabag
- Packaging
 - Vegetables and fruits packaged in plastics
 - Empty headspace
 - Secondary and tertiary packaging
- Plastic products applied into the environment
 - Non-biodegradable plastic-coated fertilizers
 - Plastic mulch
 - Artificial turf with granular infill material



Plastic-coated paper cup



Non-plastic
substitution

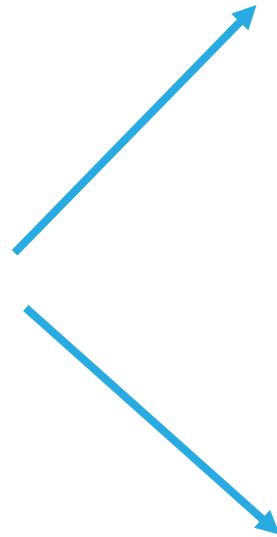
- **Problematic** (emissions generation, impediment of circularity)
- **Avoidable**



Plastic teabag



- **Problematic** (emissions generation, impediment for circularity)
- **Avoidable**



Non-plastic
substitute



Alternate
practice



Vegetables/fruits packaged in plastics

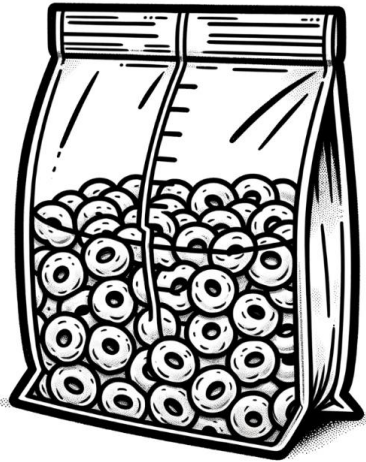


No
packaging
product
needed

- **Unnecessary**



Other forms of unnecessary packaging



Empty headspace



Secondary and
tertiary packaging



Non-biodegradable plastic-coated fertilizers



No non-biodegradable plastic-coated fertilizers is needed

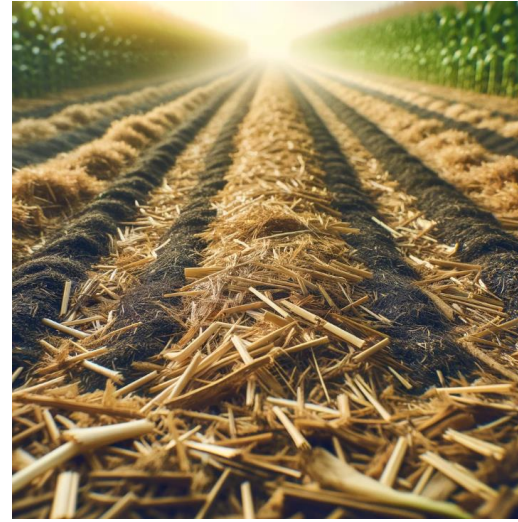
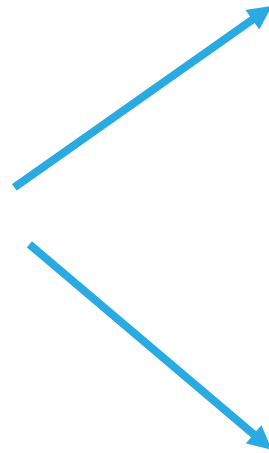
- **Problematic** (emissions generation)
- **Unnecessary**



Plastic mulch



- **Problematic** (emissions generation)
- **Avoidable**



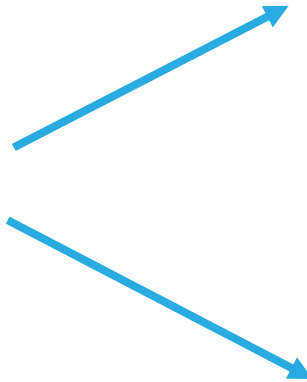
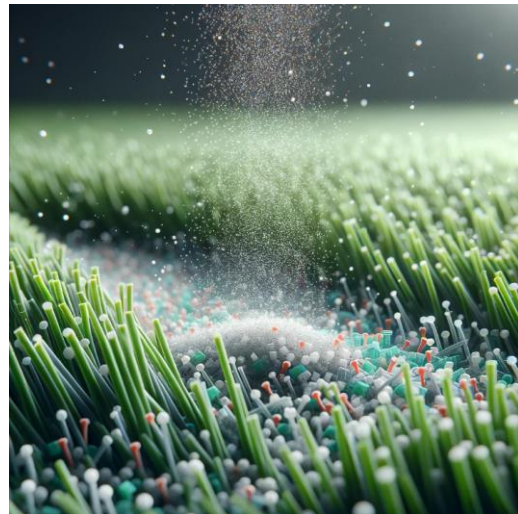
Alternate
practice



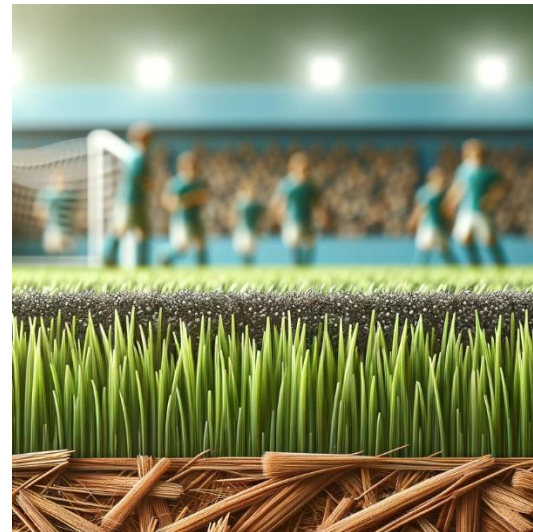
Alternate
design



Artificial turf with granular infill material



Non-plastic substitute



Alternate design

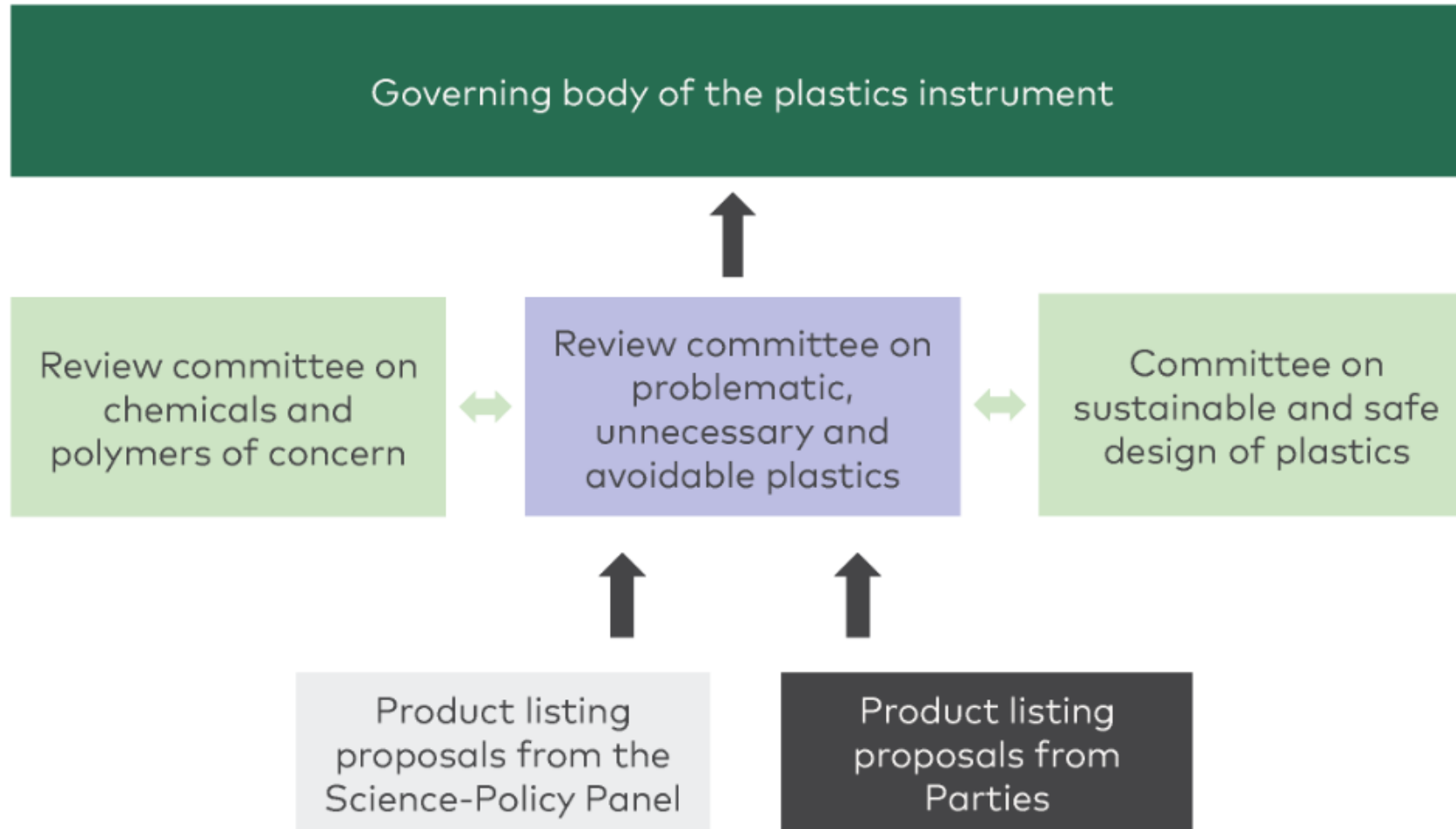
- **Problematic** (hazards, emissions generation)
- **Avoidable**



E. Procedures and mechanisms for listings



Procedures and mechanisms for listings



Conclusions

- Flexible approach to capture a wide range of both existing and new PUA plastic products
- Product listing needs to be proactive and based on scientific review, including LCA
- Product listings should be reassessed and adjusted periodically
- Capacity building is needed for effective involvement in the proposal of listings and the review process.



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KEYNOTE ADDRESS

THE GLOBAL IMPACT OF PROBLEMATIC, UNNECESSARY AND AVOIDABLE PLASTICS AND THE CHALLENGES IN MANAGING THEM

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Global IMPACTS of PUA Plastic Products and CHALLENGES in managing them

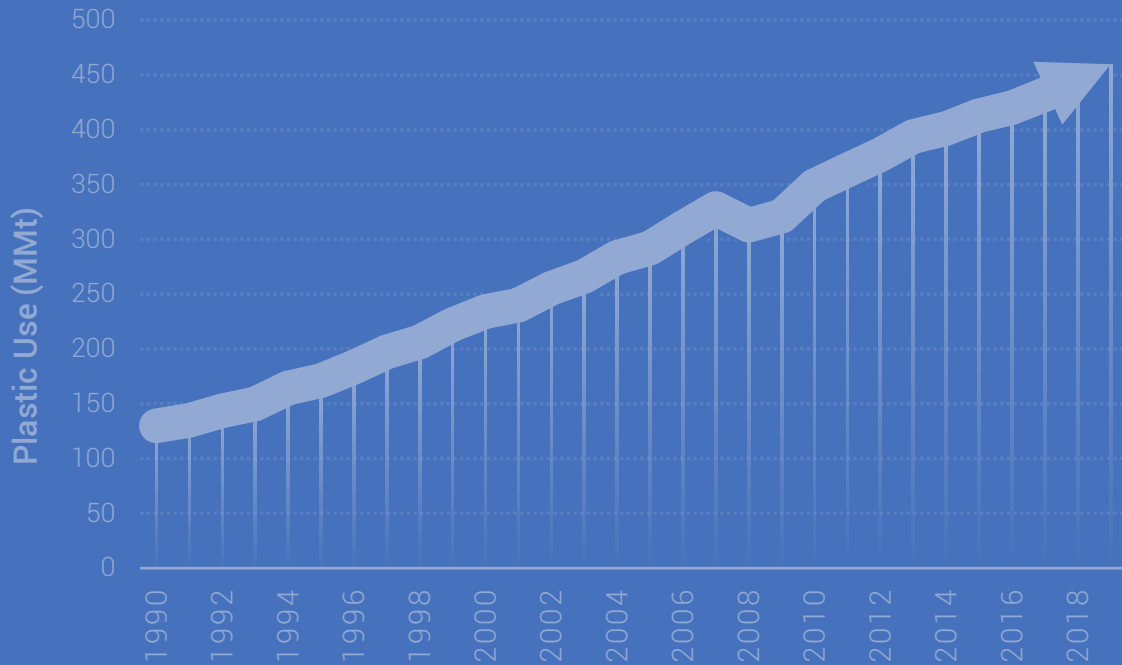
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**Llorenç Milà i Canals, UNEP
1 February 2024, Online GEN**

UN 
environment
programme

#BeatPlasticPollution

Root cause:
linear (take-make-waste)
economy



SOURCE: OECD 2022

+ Revenues from plastics production are
~US\$ 600-700 billion per year

- Externalities of plastic pollution are
~US\$ 300-600 billion per year

#BeatPlasticPollution

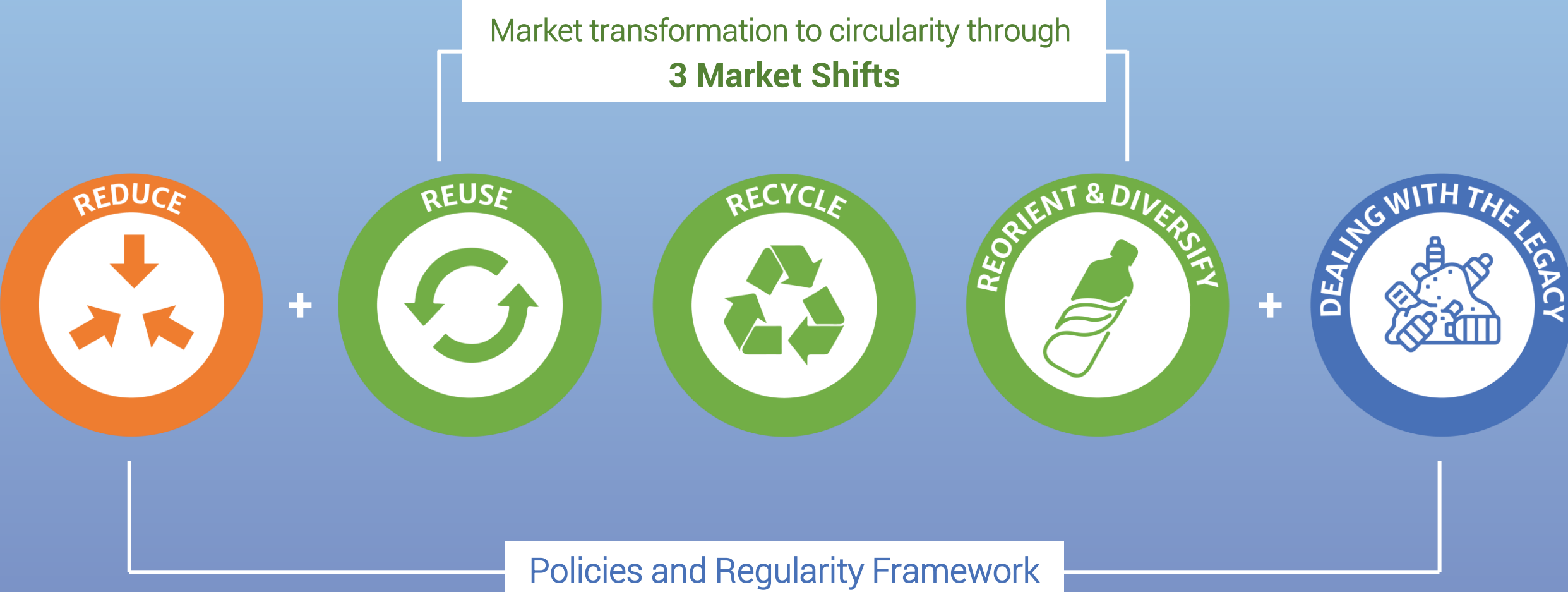
UN 
environment
programme

**Ending plastic
pollution requires
a *systems*
change.**

#BeatPlasticPollution

UN 
environment
programme

Ending Plastic Pollution



30%

of plastics from short-lived products are avoidable and can be reduced.

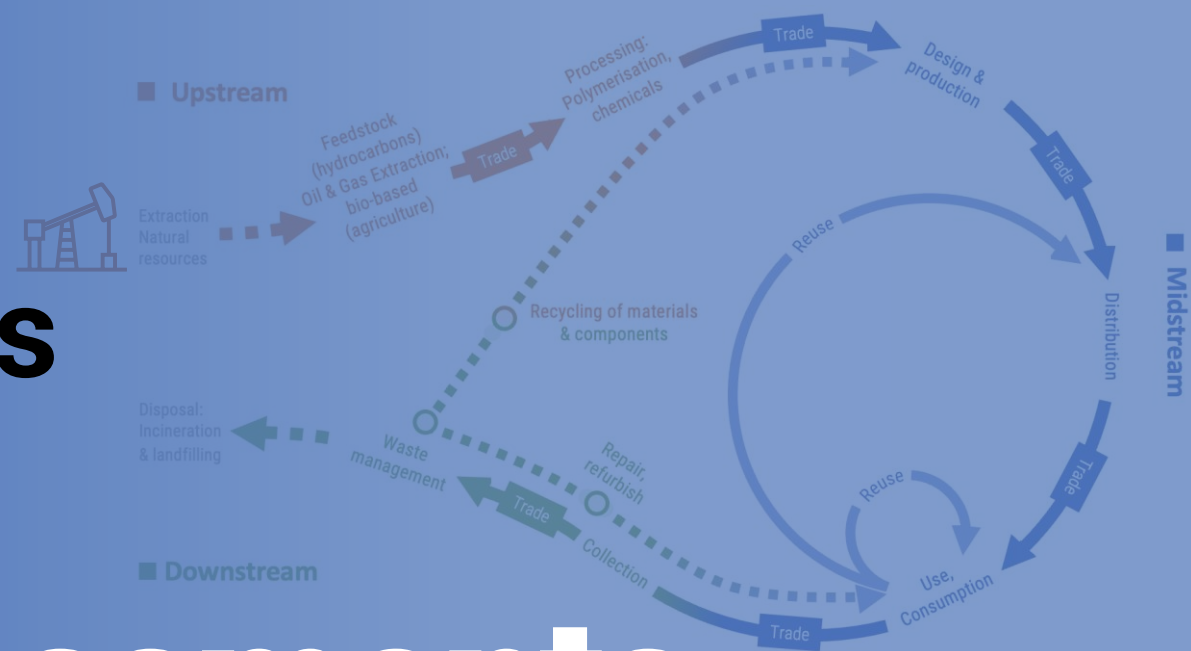
#BeatPlasticPollution

UN 
environment
programme

**Avoiding regrettable
substitutions requires
comprehensive**

Life Cycle Assessments

**coupled with safety and
socioeconomic analyses**



#BeatPlasticPollution

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Q&A

Closing

LAUNCH AND PANEL DISCUSSION

Global Criteria to Address Problematic, Unnecessary and Avoidable Plastic Products

1 FEB 2024 | 14:00 - 15:30 CET
ONLINE (WEBEX)

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AGENDA

Moderated by David AZOULAY, Director of the Geneva Office and of the Environmental Health Program of CIEL.

Opening Remarks

- Erlend DRAGET | Lead Negotiator / Focal Point, INC Plastic Pollution, Ministry of Climate and the Environment, Norway
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PANEL DISCUSSION

EXPLORING CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES & DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES ON CONTROLLING PUA PLASTICS

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LAUNCH AND PANEL DISCUSSION

**Global Criteria to Address Problematic,
Unnecessary and Avoidable Plastic Products**



Patrick UMUHOZA

Multilateral Cooperation Officer, Rwanda
Environment Management Authority



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Mahesh SUGATHAN

Senior Policy Advisor, TESS

TESS Forum on Trade,
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David CARROLL

External Affairs Director, Plastics Europe



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Eirik LINDEBJERG

Global Plastic Policy Lead, WWF



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THANK YOU!



Erlend DRAGET



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External Affairs Director, Plastics Europe



David AZOULAY



Director of the Geneva Office and of the Environmental Health Program, Center for International Environmental Law | Moderator





HIGH-LEVEL BRIEFING 6th Session of the **United Nations Environment Assembly**

6 FEBRUARY 2024 | 11:00 CET / 13:00 EAT | ONLINE

[»» tiny.cc/GEN6Feb24](https://tiny.cc/GEN6Feb24)



TESS Forum on Trade,
Environment,
& the SDGs

GENEVA ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

With the support of the

GENEVA BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION DIALOGUES

Implementing a Treaty to End Plastic Pollution


A Holistic Approach to Resource Mobilization & Financing for Systems Change & Just Transitions

7 February 2024 | 15:30 - 17:00 CET | Online (Webex)

»»» tiny.cc/GEN7Feb24

WHAT'S NEXT?

 genevaenvironmentnetwork.org




VIRTUAL
High-Level Briefing on the 6th Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly
06 FEB 2024 11:00 - 12:30
Online | Webex
GEN, UNEP Europe Office

Chemicals and Pollution | Climate | Nature
 SDG8 | SDG12 | SDG13 | SDG14 | SDG15



VIRTUAL
Implementing a Treaty to End Plastic Pollution: A Holistic Approach to Resource Mobilization & Financing for Systems Change & Just Transitions
07 FEB 2024 15:30 - 17:00
Online | Webex
TESS, GEN

Chemicals and Pollution | Plastics | Green Economy
 SDG12



INFORMATION SHARING SESSION
ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS

INFO SESSION
Human Rights and the Environment: Meeting on Activities Related to 55th Session of the Human Rights Council
08 FEB 2024 10:00 - 11:00
International Environment House 1, Room 2
& Online | Webex
GEN

Human Rights and Environment

LAUNCH AND PANEL DISCUSSION

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