**Reduce, reuse, refill and repair of plastics and plastic products (Part II.5.b)**

General considerations

* Focus on reuse and refill systems specifically
* Merge text for Options 1 and 2
* Make it a binding obligation to set targets in support of implementing a broad range of reuse models, including both return and refill systems where applicable, at the national level
* Develop a technical annex on definitions, metrics, guidance, standards and supporting policies

#### Proposed section on the implementation of reuse and refill systems

* + - 1. Each Party shall, based on the definitions, guidance and standards contained in annex [XX], take effective measures to promote the implementation of reuse and refill systems.
      2. Each Party shall adopt time bound targets in support of implementing reuse and refill systems, based on common metrics and methodologies to set these targets contained in the same annex.
      3. Each party shall establish the enabling conditions to develop reuse and refill systems at scale, in particular through the development of reuse and refill standards, shared infrastructure, harmonised systems, and economic and financial incentives, including product take-back and deposit refund schemes for, at least, the applicable products identified by following the guidance provided in annex [XX]; and leveraging public procurement.
      4. The measures taken to implement the provisions of this Article shall be reflected in the national plan communicated pursuant to [part IV.1 on national plans].

The annex should help governments to establish reuse and refill systems through:

* Harmonised definitions (if not included in the legal text of the treaty - see below) and standards
* Guidance on identifying priority product categories for reuse and refill systems, taking into account environmental, economic, social and human health impacts, including food safety
* Common metrics and methodologies to help governments set effective targets
* Guidance for the development and implementation of economic and financial incentives

#### Intersessional work for developing effective reuse provisions should focus on:

* Harmonising existing definitions, metrics, and standards for different reuse models
* Reuse solutions that are already available in some market segments
* Key barriers to see return and refill models to scale that need to be addressed
* Best practices for hygiene, safety, and quality management of return and refill systems
* Incentives and support needed to direct investment from the private sector into reuse systems, including shared infrastructure and reverse logistics

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#### Considerations for including relevant definitions in the legal text of the treaty

To allow for harmonisation and scaling of reuse and refill options, it will be essential to clarify the definition of reuse in the context of the Global Plastics Treaty. For example, the [ISO standard 18603:2013(en) on ‘Packaging and the environment — Reuse’](https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/en/#iso:std:iso:18603:ed-1:v1:en) specifies the requirements for a packaging to be classified as reusable and sets out procedures for assessment of meeting the requirements, including the associated systems.

To promote reuse and refill at scale, a broad range of models must be covered by the definitions: a range of solutions can be leveraged to create different systems including refill at home, refill on the go, return from home, and return on the go.[[1]](#footnote-0) These are distinct from, and complementary to, recycling. Reuse and refill models circulate a product or packaging as a whole, whereas recycling reprocesses the constituting materials into a new product or package. Reuse and refill can be applied both in a business-to-business (B2B) and business-to- consumer (B2C) context. In B2B, reusable packaging can for example take the form of reusable pallets loaded with products or crates.

Based on [ISO standard 18603:2013](https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/en/#iso:std:iso:18603:ed-1:v1:en), the Ellen Macarthur Foundation refers to four types of Business-to-Consumers (B2C) models, encompassing both return and refill solutions. Through the Global Commitment and Plastics Pact Network over 1000 organisations (including businesses representing over 20% of the plastic packaging market), have adopted the following terminology[[2]](#footnote-1).

In B2C, reuse models are wide-ranging. They include:

* Refill at home: Users refill a reusable container at home with refills either delivered to the door (for example, through a subscription service) or bought in a shop. Users retain ownership of the main packaging and are responsible for cleaning.
* Refill on the go: Users refill the reusable packaging at a dispensing point away from home, such as in a store. Users retain ownership of the reusable packaging and are responsible for cleaning.
* Return from home: Users subscribe to a delivery and collection service that allows them to return empty packaging from home. A business or service-provider then takes care of cleaning and redistribution of the packaging.
* Return on the go: Users purchase a product in a reusable container and return the packaging at a store or drop-off point after use. The packaging is either cleaned where it is returned or a business or service-provider takes care of the cleaning and redistribution.

1. [Ellen MacArthur Foundation: Reuse - Rethinking packaging](https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/reusable-packaging-business-models) [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. [Ellen MacArthur Foundation: Reuse - Rethinking packaging](https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/reusable-packaging-business-models) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)