

# Template<sup>i</sup> for submitting voluntary commitments to the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (Nicosia call)

*To be filled in by submitting country/organization*

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1. **Country or organization:** Sweden, Ministry of Environment / Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
2. **Title of the action (referencing in parenthesis the number of the related focus area(s)<sup>ii</sup> that the initiative will contribute to):** Littering fee
3. **Description of the action:** Producers should take responsibility for the life cycle of their products. According to the polluter pays principle, Sweden has, as a part of the implementation of the EU's Single Use Plastic directive, implemented a littering fee for producers. The purpose of the fee is to reduce the negative environmental impact of littering from single use plastic products. This is to be achieved by producers taking the financial responsibility. Certain products (for example single use plastic cups, plastic bottles, tobacco products with filters) are therefore subject to a littering fee which the producers must pay. The Swedish EPA will carry out litter measurements, the results of which will be the basis for the size of the product fee. The litter measurements must take place on two different occasions and the measurements must then be repeated every two years. In 2023, the Swedish EPA will carry out the first litter measurements.  
  
A significant amount of single-use plastic is used in the tourism industry, as well as for daily consumption of food and beverages. By introducing littering fees Sweden takes a step to improve sustainability in the hospitality and restaurant sector, encourage circularity in material use.
4. **Timeframe/milestones for the action, as appropriate:** The first part of the regulation enters into force on 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2023 and the second part of the regulation on 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2024.
5. **Type of action<sup>iii</sup>:** (a) Legal
6. **Economic sectors<sup>iv</sup>:** (c) waste
7. **Reference instruments and sources, as appropriate:**
8. **Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome:** Producers of single-use plastics etc will be encouraged to contribute to sustainable recycling and collection of solutions in order to reduce littering and to keep the littering fees low. Businesses in the restaurant and hospitality sector will be encouraged to source more sustainable products they offer to customers in order to avoid littering fees. By introducing littering fees society also sends a clear signal that certain products are not sustainable and should be phased out, contributing to changing attitudes for sustainable production and consumption.  
  
The long-term aim is to reduce littering of plastic products.
9. **SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement:** SDG target 14.1, 12.5, 12.1 and 11.6
10. **Implementation of Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Recommendations, as appropriate:**
11. **Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate:**
12. **Partners:**
13. **Contact points:** Ministry of Environment, Chemicals Division / Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Petra Selander, [petra.selander@naturvardsverket.se](mailto:petra.selander@naturvardsverket.se)

Additional information on the Nicosia focus of the action:

- **Is the action related to the Nicosia environmental theme I: “Greening the economy in the pan-European region: working towards sustainable infrastructure”? (NO)**
  - *If yes, please indicate below to which “International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure<sup>v</sup>” does the action contribute:*
  
- **Is the action related to the Nicosia environmental theme II: “Applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism”? (YES)**

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<sup>i</sup> Based on the “Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy” (ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/6, appendix).  
Webpage: <https://unece.org/documents-and-materials>

<sup>ii</sup> Nine integrated focus areas were identified in the Strategic Framework are:

- 1: Improve the measurement and valuation of natural capital;
- 2: Promote the internalization of negative externalities and the sustainable use of natural capital;
- 3: Enhance ecosystems and ecosystem services as part of ecological infrastructure;
- 4: Shift consumer behaviours towards sustainable consumption patterns;
- 5: Develop clean physical capital for sustainable production patterns;
- 6: Promote green and fair trade;
- 7: Increase green and decent jobs, while developing the necessary human capital;
- 8: Improve access to services, healthy living and well-being;
- 9: Promote public participation and education for sustainable development.

<sup>iii</sup> In accordance with the Strategic Framework, the following three types of actions are suggested:

- (a) legal, regulatory and policy instruments;
- (b) economy and fiscal instruments; and
- (c) information, education-based, capacity-building and voluntary instruments.

Countries and organizations should refer to any of these three types, as appropriate and relevant.

<sup>iv</sup> In accordance with the Strategic Framework, the following three clusters of sectors are suggested:

- (a) economy-wide;
- (b) cities; and
- (c) sectors, including: agriculture, forestry and fishing; energy; mining; manufacturing; transport; water; waste; tourism; and housing, buildings and construction.

<sup>v</sup> The “International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure” (as reflected in a subsequent UNEA Resolution UNEP/EA.5/Res.9) set out ten guiding principles that policymakers can follow to help integrate sustainability into infrastructure planning and delivery:

1. Strategic planning;
2. Responsive, resilient, and flexible service provision;
3. Comprehensive lifecycle assessment of sustainability;
4. Avoiding environmental impacts and investing in nature;
5. Resource efficiency and circularity;
6. Equity, inclusiveness, and empowerment;
7. Enhancing economic benefits;
8. Fiscal sustainability and innovative financing;
9. Transparent, inclusive, and participatory decision-making;
10. Evidence-based decision-making.

Web link: <https://www.unep.org/resources/publication/international-good-practice-principles-sustainable-infrastructure>