

Engage With Us

Going forward on a Global Plastics Treaty

The SWITCH-Asia Policy Support Component is committed to supporting the International Legally Binding Instrument (ILBI) to end plastic pollution. This project brief gives all the information on its activities and outputs..

CONTEXT

The Ongoing Negotiation Process

Current global plastic production and consumption patterns, along with their growth trajectory, are unsustainable. A systemic shift toward circularity is necessary to mitigate the environmental and human health impacts. This is particularly crucial in light of the climate commitments made by states in the Paris Agreement.

In March 2022, at the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2), a historic resolution was adopted to develop an international legally binding instrument (ILBI) on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

[The resolution \(5/14\)](#) requested the Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) to convene an **Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC)** to develop the ILBI, also referred to as “the instrument” or “the Plastics Treaty”, which is to be based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastics, including their production, design and disposal.

The INC began its work during the second half of 2022, with the ambition to complete the negotiations by the end of 2024. The first session of the INC (INC-1) took place in Uruguay, from 28 November to 2 December 2022, followed by a second session (INC-2) from 29 May to 2 June 2023 in France. The third session (INC-3) marked the process’ midway point from 13 to 19 November 2023 in Kenya, followed by

the fourth session (INC-4) from 23 to 29 April 2024 in Canada, and the fifth session (INC-5) from 25 November to 1 December 2024 in Republic of Korea.

The INC-5 was adjourned with agreement on a ‘[Chair’s Text](#)’ that will serve as the starting point for negotiations at a resumed session in 2025.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS

The [Plastics Governance Engagement](#) was launched in 2023 by the European Union (EU) funded [SWITCH-Asia Programme](#) with the aim to provide countries in the Asia-Pacific region with the technical knowledge and advisory support to develop their perspectives and raise awareness about the importance of national involvement in the Plastics Treaty negotiations.

The project has produced preparatory analyses and communication informing the stakeholders on important matters concerning INC-5.

“Deep dives” have been developed that analyse various financial instruments required to fund activities to combat plastics pollution.

Fulfilling the objective of needs assessment to combat plastics pollution, country profiles are prepared that document plastics consumption and trade, policies in place, and good practice cases of business initiatives.

To share findings from the studies, stakeholders will be engaged in country or regional workshops.

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