

switchasia



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# Global Plastics Treaty

State of negotiations of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment

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# What is the course of negotiations?

## UNEA 5.2

February 28 – March 2

Nairobi, Kenya

Adoption of Resolution 5/14 End Plastic Pollution: Towards an International Legally Binding Instrument

## INC-1

November 28 –  
December 2

Punta del Este, Uruguay

## INC-3

November 13 – 17

Nairobi, Kenya

Zero Draft

## INC-5

November 25 –  
December 1

Busan, South Korea

Textual Negotiations

2022

2023

2024

2025

## OEWG

May 30 – June 1

Dakar, Senegal

## INC-2

May 29 – June 2

Paris, France

## INC-4

April 23 – 29

Ottawa Canada

Revised Zero Draft

## Diplomatic Conference

Mid 2025

Adoption of treaty

# What is being negotiated?

1. Preamble, objectives, definitions, principles and scope
2. 13 core obligations to reduce plastic pollution
3. Means of implementation (financing, technical assistance, capacity-building, technology transfer)
4. Implementation measures (national plans, national reporting, monitoring of compliance, assessment and monitoring of progress)
5. Supplementary measures (awareness raising, education, research, cooperation and coordination, stakeholder engagement)
6. Institutional arrangements (governing body, subsidiary bodies, secretariat)



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# What are the core obligations about?

		Cross cutting
Raw materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Primary plastic polymers</li><li>• Chemicals and polymers of concern</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Extended Producer Responsibility</li><li>• Transparency, tracking, monitoring and labelling</li><li>• Trade in listed chemicals, polymers and products</li><li>• Just transition</li><li>• Health</li></ul>
Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Problematic and avoidable plastic products, including short-lived and single-use plastic products and intentionally added microplastics</li><li>• Product design and performance</li><li>• Reduce, reuse, recycling, refill and repair of plastics and plastic products</li><li>• Use of recycled plastic contents</li><li>• Alternative plastics and plastic products</li><li>• Non-plastic substitutes</li></ul>	
Waste and pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Waste management</li><li>• Transboundary movement of plastic waste</li><li>• Existing plastic pollution</li><li>• Emissions and releases of plastic throughout its life cycle</li></ul>	

# What Measures are considered (I)?

<b>Reduction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Primary plastic polymers</li><li>• Emissions and releases of plastic throughout its life cycle</li></ul>
<b>Phase-out Bans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chemicals and polymers of concern</li><li>• Problematic and avoidable plastic products, including short-lived and single-use plastic products and intentionally added microplastics</li><li>• Transboundary movement of plastic waste</li><li>• Trade in listed chemicals, polymers and products</li></ul>
<b>Economic instruments Fiscal instruments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Primary plastic polymers</li><li>• Use of recycled plastic contents</li><li>• Alternative plastics and plastic products</li><li>• Non-plastic substitutes</li></ul>
<b>Minimum targets</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduce, reuse, recycling, refill and repair of plastics and plastic products</li><li>• Use of recycled plastic contents</li><li>• Waste management</li><li>• Extended Producer Responsibility</li></ul>

# What Measures are considered (II)?

## Minimum requirements

- Chemicals and polymers of concern
- Product design and performance
- Alternative plastics and plastic products
- Extended Producer Responsibility
- Waste management
- Trade in listed chemicals, polymers and products
- Transboundary movement of plastic waste
- Transparency, tracking, monitoring and labelling

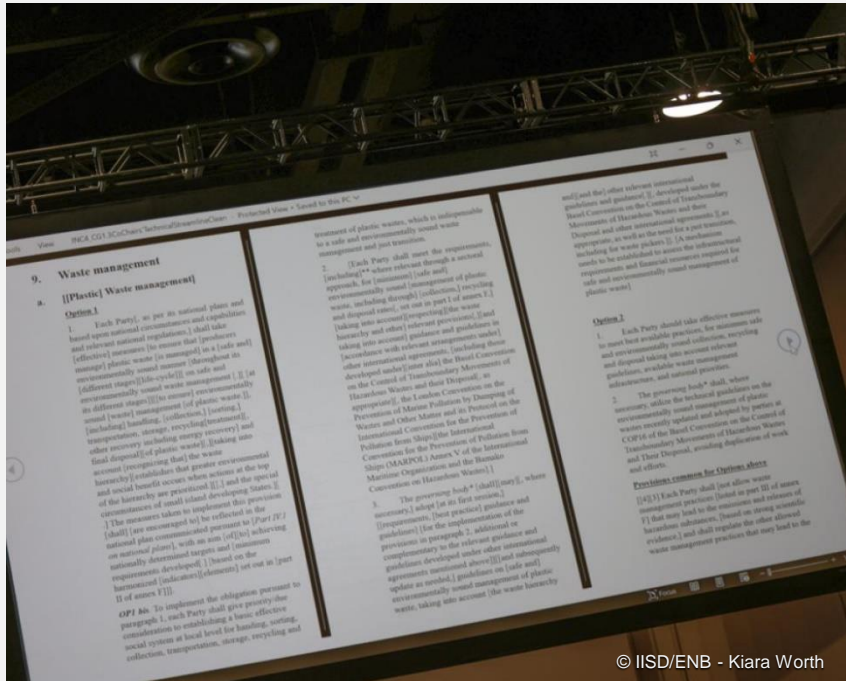
## Labelling

- Chemicals and polymers of concern
- Product design and performance
- Trade in listed chemicals, polymers and products
- Transboundary movement of plastic waste
- Transparency, tracking, monitoring and labelling

## Support measures

- Non-plastic substitutes
- Emissions and releases of plastic throughout its life cycle
- Waste management

# What happened in Ottawa? (I)



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## Some progress was made, namely

1. all negotiation groups finished the validation of the technical streamlining of the revised treaty draft text;
2. textual negotiations started but only for 15 of 37 items;
3. first round of textual negotiations was completed for 10 items.
4. Yet: streamlined draft treaty text has more than 3,500 brackets

**No provision was put off the negotiation table. Yet: many provisions feature a zero option.**

# What happened in Ottawa? (II)



## Countries eventually agreed on intersessional work

1. “Develop an analysis of potential **sources** and **means** that could be **mobilized for implementation** of the objectives of the instrument including options for the establishment of a **financial mechanism, alignment of financial flows, and catalysing finance.**”
2. “Analyse **criteria** and **non-criteria-based approaches**, with regard to **plastic products and chemicals of concern in plastic products** and **product design**, focusing on **recyclability** and **reusability** of plastic products considering their uses and applications.”



# Observations from Ottawa (I)

## Main cleavages persist

1. Countries that want **uniform, legally binding and global obligations** *VERSUS* countries that prefer **voluntary measures**, based on decisions by and adapted to **national circumstances and capabilities** in individual member states
2. Countries that want provisions on **measures in the entire plastics lifecycle**, including a reduction of primary plastic production (upstream), *VERSUS* countries that consider provisions on **measures on waste management** as sufficient (downstream)



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## Observations from Ottawa (II)



### Countries identify some common ground on provisions related to

1. minimum product design requirements
2. phase-out of high-risk plastic products and chemicals
3. Extended Producer Responsibility schemes
4. need for considerable financial resources

# What will happen at the next negotiation round in BUSAN?

## Only seven days remain to complete negotiations

Countries might agree on a framework agreement and then continue negotiating details of provisions.

## Main cleavages will persist

High-ambition countries: uniform, legally binding and global obligations across the entire lifecycle of plastics, including a reduction of the primary plastic production.

Low-ambition countries: nationally determined voluntary measures, adapted to national circumstances and capabilities, focused on waste management (downstream).

## Conflict over provisional rules of procedure threatens final agreement

Countries have not agreed on voting rules yet. The conflict is about whether the INC can – as a last resort and if all efforts to reach consensus were exhausted – adopt decisions by a two-thirds majority.

