

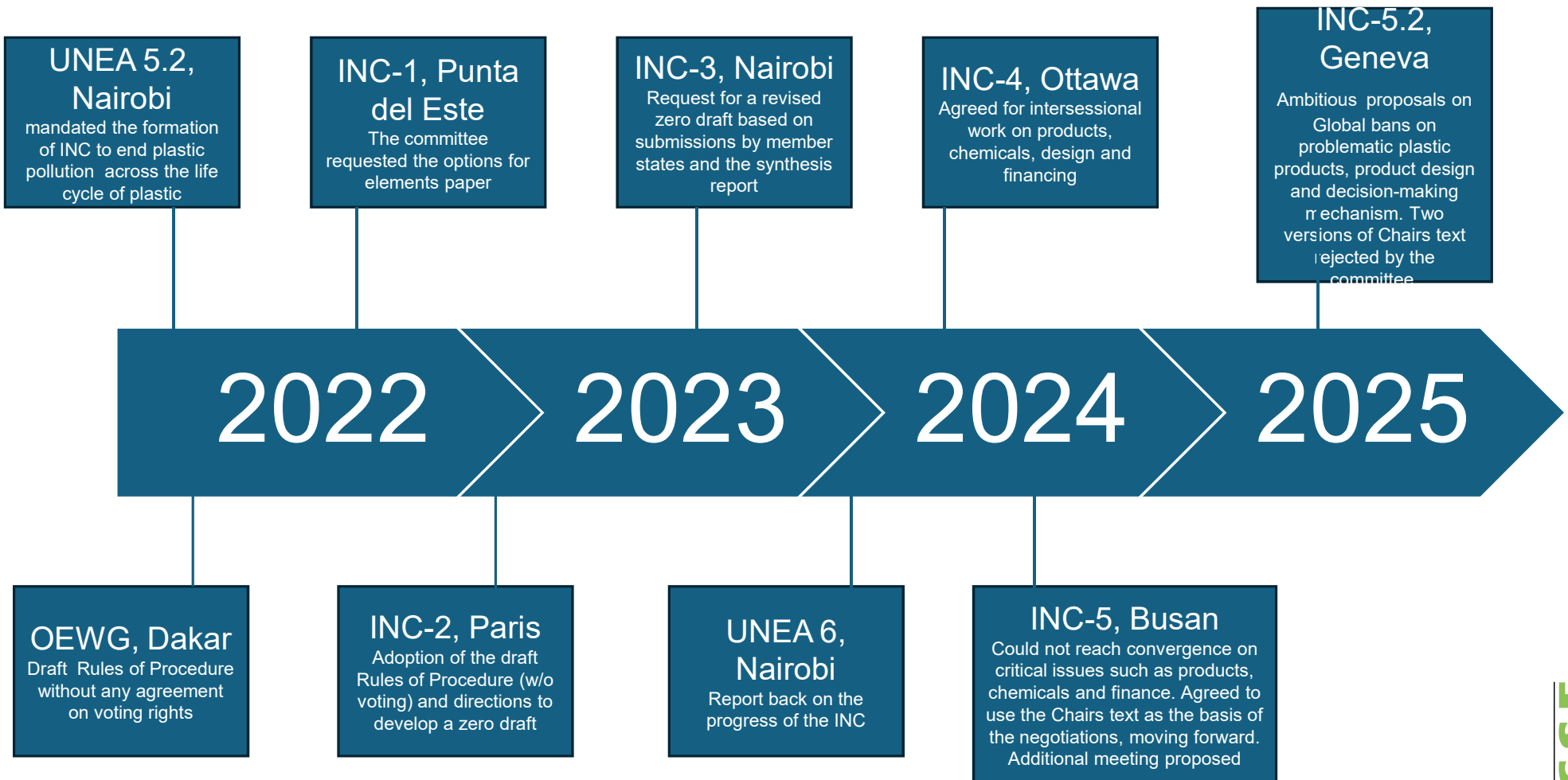


The Fate of the Global Plastic Treaty

21/8/2025

Siddharth G. Singh

The story so far.....



From Busan to Geneva

- In Busan, Member states agreed that the Chair's text released on 1st December 2024 would be the basis of negotiations going forward.

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

1 December 2024

CHAIR'S TEXT¹

[PREAMBLE]

The Parties to this Convention,

Noting with concern that the high and rapidly increasing levels of plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, represent a serious environmental and human health problem, negatively impacting the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development,

Acknowledging the important role played by plastics in human society, and stressing the importance of establishing effective mechanisms throughout the plastic lifecycle to promote plastic circularity and prevent leakage of plastics in the environment,

Recognizing the significant contribution made by all workers in the plastics sector, especially those that are in informal and cooperative settings and small and medium-sized enterprises, to the collection, sorting and recycling of plastics in many countries,

Underlining the importance of science-based decision-making and the contributions of scientific, economic, social, and technical information, including traditional knowledge and indigenous knowledge systems, for the implementation of measures to reduce plastic pollution and to improve the understanding of the full life cycle of plastics and of the global impact of plastic pollution and measures to address them,

Reaffirming the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, adopted in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992, including, *inter alia*, the principle of common but differentiated responsibility and respective capabilities, sustainable development and the sovereign right of states to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and developmental policies,

Recognizing that this Convention and other international agreements in the field of the environment are mutually supportive,

Emphasizing that nothing in this Convention is intended to affect the rights and obligations of any Party deriving from any existing international agreement,

Understanding that the above recital is not intended to create a hierarchy between this Convention and other international instruments,

Noting the importance of taking into account national circumstances and capabilities in the implementation of relevant provisions of this Convention.

Noting that nothing in this Convention prevents a Party from taking additional domestic measures consistent with the provisions of this Convention in an effort to address plastic pollution in accordance with that Party's other obligations under applicable international law,

Have agreed as follows:

¹ This draft text was developed building on the outcomes of the informal consultations on 30 November and contributions from the Co-Chairs of the Contact Groups and facilitators of the informal consultations.



A workable package with the potential for change!

Articles

Preamble
Scope
Article 1 – Objective
Article 1bis – Principles and approaches
Article 2 – Definitions
Article 3 – *Global bans on Plastic products and chemicals of Concern*
Article 4 – Exemptions
Article 5 – Plastic product design
Article 6 – [Supply] *Plastic Production cuts*
Article 7 – Releases and leakages
Article 8 – Plastic waste management
Article 9 – Existing plastic pollution
Article 10 – Just transition
Article 11 – Financial mechanism
Article 12 – Capacity building, technical assistance and technology transfer, including international cooperation
Article 13 – Implementation and compliance
Article 14 – National plans
Article 15 – Reporting
Article 16 – Effectiveness evaluation
Article 17 – Information exchange
Article 18 – Public information, awareness, education and research
Article 19 – Health
Article 20 – Conference of the Parties
Article 20bis – Subsidiary bodies
Article 21 – Secretariat
Article 22 – Settlement of disputes
Article 23 – Amendments to the Convention
Article 24 – Adoption and amendment of annexes
Article 25 – Right to vote
Article 26 – Signature
Article 27 – Ratification, acceptance, approval or accession
Article 28 – Entry into force
Article 29 – Reservation
Article 30 – Withdrawal
Article 31 – Depositary
Article 32 – Authentic texts

The Package

- Article 3- Global bans on the most problematic plastic products
- Article 5- Global design criteria for plastic products that are still in circulation
- Article 6- Plastic production reduction targets, and sharing of data on production, consumption, and waste generation
- Article 11- A robust financial mechanism with timely, adequate and accessible funds for the developing countries
- Article 20- Conference of Parties



Intersessional progress

- 3 very strong proposals with wide support by member states
 - Peru and Colombia- supported by 120 countries- Article 20
 - Switzerland and Mexico- supported by 89 countries- Article 3
 - UK and Chile- supported by 33 countries- Article 5

ARTICLE 5 PRODUCT DESIGN

CANADA, COLOMBIA, CHILE, ECUADOR, GRENADA, GUATEMALA, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, PANAMA, PHILIPPINES, THAILAND, TUVALU on behalf of PSIDS, UK

We are supportive of working on the basis of the chairs text to strengthen this important article. We are conscious that we are approaching the final stages of negotiations and want to work constructively with members to find broad support for this text before negotiations begin at INC5.2.

We are engaging with a range of members to understand how best we could improve this text to meet a range of member's needs.

So far, we have noted an interest in improving the text in three key areas to support its aims and implementation:

1. Reuse: to support the implementation of products for re-use many countries have noted the importance of improving 'reuse systems' as they are a key part of the solution for enabling greater re-use.
2. Product Information: Increased availability of product information would support members in achieving the objectives in paragraph 1. The availability of product information is particularly important for countries that mainly import plastic products to ensure they are complying with the provisions of this treaty.
3. Future work: As well as guidance, many countries have noted their desire for this article to allow for the development of design and performance criteria in the future, if necessary. This should be informed by evidence, and guidance should support members in the implementation of any criteria.

To help in understanding the changes we have made to the text proposal, we have added our **additions to the chairs text in bold** and some **deletions to the chairs text in bold and strikethrough**.

We have provided comments in the review function of word to provide more detailed information on our changes.

1. Each Party shall, taking into account its national circumstances and capabilities, take appropriate measures to:

(a) improve plastic product design, in pursuit of circular economy approaches, in order to:

- I. contribute to sustainable production and consumption of plastics by increasing **resource efficiency**, reuse and recycling of plastics, including, as appropriate, through reuse and recycled content targets, **and by promoting reuse and recycle systems**;
- II. Improve the **safety**, durability, reusability, refillability, refurbishability, repairability and recyclability of plastic products, and **promote-ensure** the use of safe and sustainable additives;
- III. **ensure recycling and** disposal of plastic products in an environmentally sound manner in accordance with the waste hierarchy; and
- IV. Minimize releases **and leakages** of plastic, including microplastics, during the product life **cycle**.



Two misses by the Chair!

Chair's Draft Text Proposal –13 August 2025 as at 2:50pm

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to present my draft text proposal, developed with valuable contributions from the Co-Chairs of the Contact Groups and the Co-Chair's facilitators, whose dedication and efforts I sincerely thank. My commitment to incorporating as many of those inputs as possible into the document delayed my ability to deliver it earlier and to share it with the regional groups before plenary, as I originally intended.

This iteration reflects my vision of a balanced outcome, carefully considering the red lines, sensitivities, aspirations, and goals expressed by different delegations, always aiming to serve the common good while respecting the needs and interests of each State.

I encourage all delegations to view the draft text proposal as a whole, not just as a series of articles to analyze separately, but as a thoughtfully balanced framework that connects a wide range of positions into mutual understandings. The draft text proposal does not judge the issues it covers; instead, it aims to represent them fairly and accurately.

Looking ahead to the revised iteration, I will continue to promote focused dialogue and exchanges among members, aiming to refine further and strengthen the balance embodied in this draft.

The world looks to us to deliver an effective solution that can evolve over time to address plastic pollution through joint and cooperative action among all States.

I rely on your ongoing engagement, constructive spirit, and shared commitment as we work together toward this historic goal.

Yours,

Luis Vayas Valdivieso
Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution

Chair's Revised Text Proposal –15 August 2025 as at 00.48.

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to submit the second iteration of the INC Chair's document, which reflects the results of meetings with regional groups, small group consultations organized by the Chair, and numerous bilateral meetings conducted since yesterday.

The small group meetings demonstrated the value of informal exchanges between delegations. These sessions allowed participants, in a spirit of compromise, to identify mutual concessions in different parts of the text, thereby promoting a better understanding across the entire document. This working method proved very helpful in streamlining discussions and enabling a smooth exchange of ideas and proposals.

As with the first iteration, dated 13 August, this text is the sole responsibility of the Chair. It is offered as a contribution intended to serve as a basis for identifying balanced solutions and landing zones that can help build consensus.

Yours,

Luis Vayas Valdivieso

Chair of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment



Summary and the way forward!

- The chairs proposals presented on 13th August was widely rejected by Member states. While the Like Minded countries were happy with the draft- more than 80 countries took the floor to express the low level of ambition.
- The Chairs proposal presented on 15th August did not present the “package” the committee wanted to see- it proposed an interesting take on Article 20 on CoP- with the inclusion of voting.
- With no clear path ahead- the Chairs text of 1st December 2024 continues to remain as the agreed text for further negotiations.





Thank You!