

Global Plastic Treaty: What's at Stake?

Siddharth G. Singh

Centre for Science and Environment

NOTHING IS AGREED UNTILL EVERYTHIN G IS AGREED.





The Missing Core- Decision making mechanism

- Rules of procedure (RoP) still not adopted
- Chair's draft text proposes consensus-only decision-making
- Vulnerable to deadlock situations- as a result substantive elements would suffer dilution



When Consensus and voting is misused

- Rotterdam Convention: A handful of countries block listing of hazardous chemicals
- UNFCCC: Consensus exploited to weaken ambition or delay action
- One objecting party = no progress



Precedent shows the way

- Minamata Convention: Consensus preferred, voting allowed if no agreement
- BBNJ (High Seas Treaty): Similar model adopted in 2023
- Creates incentive to compromise—pressures both high and low ambition sides



Expectations from INC 5.2?

- A strong Conference of Parties (CoP)
- Ability to establish subsidiary bodies
- Ability to adopt protocols



Thank You!

