Highlights of the Second Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-2)

DEVELOPING AN INTERNATIONAL LEGALLY BINDING INSTRUMENT TO END PLASTIC POLLUTION, INCLUDING IN THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT.

Siddharth Ghanhsyam Singh

3rd June 2023
What is United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)?

• UNEA was formed in 2012 to create an effective system of international environmental governance.

• Meets every 2 years.

• Defines the work of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
How did we reach here

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>Resolution number</th>
<th>Title of the resolution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNEA 1</td>
<td>1/6</td>
<td>Marine plastic debris and micro-plastics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNEA 2</td>
<td>2/11</td>
<td>Marine plastic litter and micro-plastics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNEA 3</td>
<td>3/7</td>
<td>Marine litter and micro-plastics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNEA 4</td>
<td>4/6</td>
<td>Marine litter and micro-plastics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNEA 5.2</td>
<td>5/14</td>
<td>End plastic pollution: Towards an international legally binding instrument</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: UNEA and Governing Council sessions
What is the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC)?

• Resolution 5/14 has a mandate to create an INC.

• INC, basically negotiate the treaty and consists of member states of UNEA.

• Member state led process.
Expectations from the INC-2

• INC secretariat invited written submissions from member states.

• Based on written submissions developed an option for element paper

• Negotiate on the elements paper (core obligations + implementation)

• Develop a zero draft of the treaty
What emerged from INC-2

- Almost half of the entire event was spent on discussing rule 37 and 38 in the “provisional rules of procedure” to ensure that decisions are only taken ONLY through “consensus” and NOT by “voting”

- Discussions revolved around the draft “options paper” released by INC-2 secretariat

- The high ambition coalition (HAC) led by Rwanda and Norway was in favour of the strong legally binding instrument with regard to focus on “upstream” and “midstream” of the problem; eg – cap on extraction, petrochemical/polymer production

- Countries not part of the HAC made collective effort to dilute some of the core issues connected to the “upstream” and “midstream” and focused on the solution in “waste management”

- The likelihood of having a strong legally binding instrument as an outcome of INC is much more difficult than.
Reference documents

• CSE’s briefing paper on INC-2 released ahead of the event

• CSE’s press release with highlights of INC-2 – Will be shared later today with the media and others
Let's get started!