



Navigating the plastic treaty negotiations process

May 2023

Overview

Negotiations for a global treaty to “end plastic pollution” are currently underway in the [Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee \(INC\)](#) on plastic pollution, mandated by [Resolution 5/14](#) of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) adopted in March 2022. The intention is to have a treaty text ready for adoption in early 2025. The [Draft Rules of Procedure](#) provisionally adopted in May 2022 define how the negotiations proceed, while the INC [Bureau](#) helps prepare INC meetings alongside the UNEP INC Secretariat headed by Ms. Jyoti Mathur-Filipp. General discussion of agenda items happen in plenary with interpretation into the 6 UN languages, while negotiations on text take place in contact groups in English only.

What happened at INC-1

During this first week of negotiations, much time was spent on plenary statements, many of which supported a strong, binding plastic treaty with a focus on reducing plastic production, and a recognition of the severe harms of plastic pollution across its lifecycle. Precious negotiating time and resources were also allocated to a multi-stakeholder forum.

There was only one contact group that only considered text on procedural issues including the Draft Rules of Procedure and Stakeholder Engagement. INC-1 extended its provisional adoption of the Draft Rules of Procedure after discussions failed to reach resolution on contentious issues. By INC-1, all regions except Eastern Europe had nominated their representatives to the Bureau.

What to expect for INC-2

INC-2 negotiations are expected to focus on the [UNEP Options Paper](#), including defining treaty objectives, control measures, and aspects of implementation, and conclude by issuing a mandate for a treaty zero draft to be prepared for INC-3. Governments expressed their positions in their [INC-2 submissions](#), as did rights-holders and industry groups.

UNEP has proposed streamlining opening statements (with the option to share video recording in advance) to leave time for negotiations. There will be at least two contact groups as follows:

- Contact group 1 on **objectives and control measures**
- Contact group 2 on **implementation and additional matters**

The Draft Rules of Procedure will be discussed to attempt to settle contentious issues including the possibility for voting. If no consensus is found regarding Eastern European representatives on the Bureau, a secret ballot may be held.

Timeline of the plastic treaty negotiations



GAIA is a global network of grassroots groups and national and regional alliances representing more than 1000 organizations from 92 countries. We envision a just, zero waste world built on respect for ecological limits and community rights, where people are free from the burden of toxic pollution, and resources are sustainably conserved, not burned or dumped. We work to catalyze a global shift towards environmental justice by strengthening grassroots social movements that advance solutions to waste and pollution.