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**Intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop  
an international legally binding instrument on plastic  
pollution, including in the marine environment  
First session**

Punta del Este, Uruguay, 28 November–2 December 2022

**Draft report of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to  
develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic  
pollution, including in the marine environment, on the work of  
its first session**

**I. Introduction**

1. In resolution 5/14 of 2 March 2022 entitled “End plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument”, the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee to begin its work during the second half of 2022, with the ambition of completing that work by the end of 2024. The Environment Assembly also decided that the intergovernmental negotiating committee was to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, which could include both binding and voluntary approaches, based on a comprehensive approach that addressed the full life cycle of plastic, taking into account, among other things, the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, as well as national circumstances and capabilities, and including provisions described in the resolution.

2. Accordingly, the first session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, was held at the Punta del Este Convention and Exhibition Centre, Punta del Este, Uruguay, from 28 November to 2 December 2022.

**II. Opening of the session**

3. The first session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee was declared open by Jyoti Mathur-Filipp, Executive Secretary of the intergovernmental negotiating committee, at 10.20 a.m. on Monday, 28 November 2022.

4. Opening statements were delivered by Luis Lacalle Pou, President of Uruguay; Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP; and Adrián Peña, Minister of Environment of Uruguay.

**III. Election of officers**

5. At the first meeting of the session, on 28 November, the intergovernmental negotiating committee considered the matter of the election of officers.

6. A statement was made by the representative of Colombia on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States.

7. Taking note of the statement, the intergovernmental negotiating committee elected Gustavo Meza-Cuadra Velásquez (Peru) to serve as its Chair.
8. The Chair delivered opening remarks.
9. The intergovernmental negotiating committee agreed to defer the election of the vice-chairs for the intergovernmental negotiating committee and the designation of a rapporteur to allow for informal consultations on the matter.

## **IV. Organizational matters**

### **A. Adoption of the rules of procedure**

10. At the first meeting of the session, on 28 November, a representative of the secretariat introduced the draft rules of procedure for the work of the intergovernmental negotiating committee (UNEP/PP/INC.1/1), which had been agreed by the ad hoc open-ended working group at its meeting held in Dakar from 30 May to 1 June 2022, convened by the Executive Director of UNEP to prepare for the work of the intergovernmental negotiating committee, with the exception of rule 37 on voting rights, as reflected in paragraph 1 by bracketed text and three alternatives for paragraph 2, as set out in document UNEP/PP/INC.1/3. The intergovernmental negotiating committee also had before it a submission from the United States of America and the European Union setting out proposed alternative language for a portion of the bracketed text in rule 37.
11. Statements were made by the representatives of Bahrain; Colombia, on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States; China; Egypt; Indonesia; Qatar; the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal and the United States.
12. A comment was made by the Senior Legal Officer of UNEP.
13. The intergovernmental negotiating committee agreed that the Chair would hold informal consultations on the bracketed text in rule 37 of the draft rules of procedure with a view to reaching agreement, and that pending such agreement the draft rules of procedure would apply to its work on a provisional basis.
14. [to be completed]

### **B. Adoption of the agenda**

15. At the first meeting of the session, on 28 November, the intergovernmental negotiating committee adopted the agenda of its first session on the basis of the provisional agenda (UNEP/PP/INC.1/1), as follows:
  1. Opening of the session.
  2. Election of officers.
  3. Organizational matters:
    - (a) Adoption of the rules of procedure;
    - (b) Adoption of the agenda;
    - (c) Organization of work.
  4. Preparation of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.
  5. Other matters.
  6. Adoption of the report.
  7. Closure of the session.

### **C. Organization of work**

16. At the first meeting of the session, on 28 November, the representative of the secretariat introduced the scenario note for the meeting (UNEP/PP/INC.1/2).
17. Comments were made by the representatives of Bangladesh, China, Indonesia and the United States.

18. The intergovernmental negotiating committee agreed to organize its work as outlined in the scenario note. Plenary meetings would be held from Monday, 28 November to Friday, 2 December, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m., with the exception of the afternoon of Tuesday, 29 November, during which an informal stakeholder dialogue would be held.

19. The intergovernmental negotiating committee further agreed that the time limit for statements delivered during the general discussion would be three minutes for individual statements and statements by observers and five minutes for those delivered on behalf of a group of States.

#### **D. Attendance**

20. Representatives of the following States attended the session: [to be completed]

21. The representative of the European Union also attended the session.

22. The following intergovernmental organizations and other entities were represented as observers: [to be completed]

23. The following United Nations bodies, secretariat units and convention secretariats were represented as observers: [to be completed]

24. [Number to be completed] non-governmental organizations were also represented as observers.

### **V. Preparation of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment**

25. In considering the agenda item, the intergovernmental negotiating committee had before it documents UNEP/PP/INC.1/4, UNEP/PP/INC.1/5, UNEP/PP/INC.1/6, UNEP/PP/INC.1/7, UNEP/PP/INC.1/8, UNEP/PP/INC.1/9, UNEP/PP/INC.1/10, UNEP/PP/INC.1/11, UNEP/PP/INC.1/12 and UNEP/PP/INC.1/13, in addition to a number of information documents prepared to facilitate its work.

#### **A. General statements**

26. At the first meeting of the session, on 28 November, the intergovernmental negotiating committee heard general statements by representatives of regions, groups of countries and individual countries.

27. Statements were delivered by the representatives of Jordan, on behalf of the Asia-Pacific States; Colombia, on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States; and Ghana, on behalf of the African States.

28. Statements were delivered by the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States; the European Union, also on behalf of its member States; Georgia, on behalf of the States members of the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution; Samoa, on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States; the United States, also on behalf of Australia, Canada, Iceland, Japan, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

29. Statements were made by the representatives of Brazil, Indonesia and the Republic of Korea.

30. At the second meeting of the session, on 28 November, the intergovernmental negotiating committee heard national statements by the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan (via video link), Bahrain, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, the Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Gabon, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel (via video link), Japan, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico (via video link), Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Peru, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, Tuvalu, the United States, Uruguay and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

31. At the third meeting of the session, on 29 November, the intergovernmental negotiating committee heard general statements by representatives of countries, United Nations entities, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations.

32. Statements were delivered by the representatives of Armenia, Bangladesh, Colombia, the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Guinea, Iceland, Kiribati, Libya, Maldives, Monaco, Nepal, Nigeria,

Panama, Saint Lucia, Singapore, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Türkiye, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United Republic of Tanzania.

33. Statements were also made by the representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; the United Nations Global Compact and the World Health Organization.

34. Statements were made by the representatives of the International Chamber of Commerce and the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

35. Statements were also made by the representatives of the Centre for Oceanic Awareness, Research, and Education, on behalf of the non-governmental organizations major group; the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives; the International Trade Union Confederation, on behalf of the International Alliance of Waste Pickers; the International POPs Elimination Network; the International Science Council, on behalf of the science and technology major group; the Peace, Integration and Development Network, on behalf of the children and youth major group; the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, on behalf of the business and industry major group and Women for Women International, on behalf of the women major group.

36. Following those statements, two representatives delivered statements in exercise of their right of reply.

## **B. Scope, objectives and broad options for the structure**

37. At the fourth meeting of the session, on 30 November, the intergovernmental negotiating committee considered the potential scope, objectives and broad options for the structure of a legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, hearing statements by representatives of regions, groups of countries, individual countries and non-governmental organizations.

38. Statements were delivered by the representatives of Colombia, on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States; and Ghana, on behalf of the African States.

39. Statements were delivered by the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States; the Cook Islands, on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States; and the European Union, also on behalf of its member States.

40. Statements were made by the representatives of Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Guinea, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico (via video link), Montenegro, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, Türkiye, the United Kingdom, the United States, Uruguay and Viet Nam.

41. Statements were also made by the representatives of the Carrizo/Comecrudo Tribe of Texas; the Endocrine Society; India Youth for Society, on behalf of the children and youth major group; Partnership for Change (via video link); and The Descendants Project.

42. Also at the fourth meeting of the session, on 30 November, the intergovernmental negotiating committee agreed to establish an informal group, to be co-facilitated by the representatives of Canada and Ecuador, to consider: (a) requests that the committee could make to the secretariat to advance the discussions under agenda item 4 at the committee's second session; and (b) the modalities for multi-stakeholder engagement.

43. [to be completed]

## **C. Options for potential elements**

### **1. Core obligations, control measures and voluntary approaches, as well as national action plans**

44. At the fourth meeting of the session, on 30 November, the intergovernmental negotiating committee began its consideration of possible core obligations, control measures and voluntary approaches to a legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, hearing national statements by the representatives of Japan, Peru and the United States.

45. At the fifth meeting of the session, on 30 November, the intergovernmental negotiating committee continued its consideration of the matter, hearing statements by representatives of regions, groups of countries, individual countries and non-governmental organizations.

46. A statement was made by the representative of Ghana on behalf of the African States.

47. Statements were made by the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States; the European Union, also on behalf of its member States; and the Federated States of Micronesia, on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States.

48. Statements were delivered by the representatives of Australia, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Mexico (via video link), Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Thailand, Türkiye, the United Kingdom and the United States.

49. A statement was also made by the representative of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs.

50. A statement was made by the representative of the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

51. Statements were also made by the representatives of the Bureau of International Recycling, Health Care Without Harm, the International Organization for Standardization and OceanCare.

## **2. Means of implementation, including capacity-building, technical assistance and finance**

52. At the fifth meeting of the session, on 30 November, the intergovernmental negotiating committee considered the potential elements for means of implementation, hearing statements by representatives of regions, groups of countries, individual countries and non-governmental organizations.

53. A statement was made by the representative of Ghana on behalf of the African States.

54. Statements were delivered by the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States; the European Union, also on behalf of its member States; and Niue, on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States.

55. Statements were made by the representatives of Australia, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, the Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Egypt, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Mexico, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Türkiye, the United Kingdom, the United States and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

56. Statements were also made by the representatives of the International Medical Crisis Response Alliance, the Marine Ecosystems and Protected Area Trust and the World Wide Fund for Nature.

## **3. Support to monitoring and evaluation of progress in, and effectiveness of, implementation and national reporting**

57. [to be completed]

## **4. Other aspects, including scientific and technical cooperation and coordination, research and awareness-raising**

58. [to be completed]

## **5. Stakeholder participation and action**

59. [to be completed]

## **D. Standard articles on final provisions**

60. [to be completed]

## **E. Sequencing and recommended further work**

61. [to be completed]

**VI. Other matters**

62. [to be completed]

**VII. Adoption of the report**

63. [to be completed]

**VIII. Closure of the session**

64. [to be completed]

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