

Reference: Not-INC-2023-0010

30 March 2023

Dear Madam/Sir,

On behalf of the Chair of the intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC) to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, it is my pleasure to notify you of the 12 thematic side events to be organized on the margins of the second session of the INC, to be held 29 May – 2 June 2023 at the **UNESCO headquarters**, Paris, France. The themes have been chosen based on the discussions at INC-1, the written submissions received, and were decided in consultation with the Chair and the host country.

We invite Members and observer organizations **accredited to INC-2** to submit their interest, if they wish to do so, in being part of and co-organizing one, or a maximum of two of the thematic side events listed below through the online form <https://forms.office.com/e/byQ8J1Wrrj> by **19 April 2023**. The events will be **in-person only**.

The thematic side events will be held **1:30-2:45 pm** daily from **Monday 29 May to Thursday 1 June 2023** at the INC-2 venue, with 3 events to be held in parallel each day.

The schedule of the events is provided below:

Date	No.	Theme
Monday 29 May	1	Promoting sustainable consumption and production of plastics
	2	Oceans and the marine environment, including transport, ghost fishing gears, dumping, pellet loss, and impacts on biodiversity
	3	The role of trade measures in the future instrument: challenges and opportunities
Tuesday 30 May	4	Monitoring the situation and monitoring the progress of the future instrument: objectives/targets and their associated baselines, indicators, and timelines.
	5	Plastic pollution, toxicity, chemicals, and potential risks to human health
	6	Means of implementation, including resource mobilization and financial mechanism
Wednesday 31 May	7	Microplastic: understanding the challenge and its impacts
	8	Promoting circular economy to retain plastics in the economy and out of the environment, including innovation and expanding the share of circular plastics
	9	Enabling change at local, national, and regional levels
Thursday 1 June	10	Promoting environmentally sound management of plastic waste, including collection, sorting, and recycling, and consideration of investments
	11	Existing plastic pollution: Challenges of SIDs and remote communities
	12	Socio-economic considerations in the transition to circular approaches to plastic, including human rights approaches and inclusion of the informal waste sector

Events will include Members and observer organizations and will be balanced and responsive to Members' interests. The Secretariat, in consultation with the Chair, will select the list of Members and observer organizations to present in and co-organize the thematic side events, taking into account geographical balance, representation from both Members and observers of the Committee, as well as technical experience and expertise on the themes.

Each event will have a maximum of 6 presenters identified, with some time reserved for Q&A. The list of selected co-organizers for each event will be published on the [INC-2 webpage](#).

Please note that the thematic side events will be co-organized by the selected presenters, in consultation with the Chair and the INC Secretariat. Those offering to present in the session should be prepared to be part of the organization of the relevant thematic side event.

Three rooms will be made available for the thematic side events by the host country, and no catering will be provided. Co-organizers will be responsible for all costs and matters related to the coordination and organization of the thematic side events, and any catering planned. The secretariat will provide more details on the organization in due course.

We understand that not all Member States, organizations, and observers will get an opportunity to present in the thematic side events at INC-2 due to limited time and space. More opportunities will be provided in the inter-sessional period between INC-2 and INC-3, and at INC-3, for which a priority will be given to those not having had the opportunity to present on this occasion.

Yours sincerely,

Signed

Jyoti Mathur-Filipp
Executive Secretary
Secretariat for the UNEP INC on Plastic Pollution