Feedback from the survey on the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-4) on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. From 23 to 29 April 2024 at the Shaw Center in Ottawa, Canada.

To assist the INC Secretariat in preparing for the upcoming session of the INC, participants that attended INC-4 were invited to complete a survey by 10 May 2024. The answers to the survey were anonymous.

A. Breakdown of the type of participation of respondent

A total of 245 participants responded to the survey distributed by the Secretariat.

- Members of the Committee: 86
- Observers from intergovernmental Organizations: 21
- Observers from non-governmental organizations: 120
- Observers from United Nations system entities: 6
- Media: 2
- INC secretariat/ supporting/ local staff: 10
B. How successful was INC-4?

A large majority of respondents considered INC-4 successful, particularly in terms of agreeing to the mandate for the intersessional period before INC-5, by deciding to establish two ad hoc intersessional open-ended expert groups. Some respondents remarked, however, that they had hoped the process to have moved further substantively.
C. Evaluation of the preparations for INC-4

Some considered that the regional consultations prior to INC-4 were important and useful. Member States and Observers noted they benefited from the regional consultations to exchange views prior to the negotiations. The pre-session documents were important and useful as they supported the preparations for the INC-4. Most respondents considered they would recommend others to attend the INC sessions.
D. Evaluation of the contact group and subgroup meetings

Respondents generally considered that the meetings of the contact groups and subgroups supported advancing the discussions at INC-4. However, many highlighted challenges with the organization of the meetings in terms of time. Many respondents noted that better time management and clearer information would have been needed and some respondents have also indicated that since no more than three meetings were running in parallel, the division into contact groups and subgroups led to time inefficiencies. Some respondents said that the contact groups were less useful after the establishment of the subgroups.
E. Evaluation of the side-events

The evaluation of the three thematic side events at INC-4 was largely positive, with most respondents indicating that they found the events interesting and informative. Many respondents considered that the events provided participants with vital information and understanding on the INC process. Some respondents considered that a larger number of official side-events should be organized, while others preferred the time to be exclusively dedicated to the negotiations.
F. Evaluation of the platforms and channels used at INC-4

The platforms and channels used for INC-4 were considered useful, functional, and easy to access. Overall, the registration process was considered clear and well-coordinated, and the quality of the interpretation services was considered good. Most delegates found the website and the Secretariat’s e-mail communication clear, useful and easy to navigate. The In-session Document Platform and the Web TV useful, although many respondents noted they had not needed to use the Un web TV. Some respondents highlighted that the visa support was well organized and coordinated; however, some noted that the visa application process was complex.

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The evaluation of facilities and accessibility areas provided at INC-4 was generally good. The respondents expressed dissatisfaction with specific logistical and technical aspects of the rooms, including Wi-Fi, sound system, microphones and seating arrangements, and the room size for some meetings. Some also expressed dissatisfaction with the quality of the food available at the venue. Most respondents considered the badge collection process easy and clear with adequate support available on any registration issues.