

Major groups consultations

Update on the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to Develop an internationally legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment



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Process

In March 2022, UNEA-5.2 adopted resolution 5/14 titled ["End plastic pollution: Towards an international legally binding instrument"](#)

The resolution called for the development of and international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

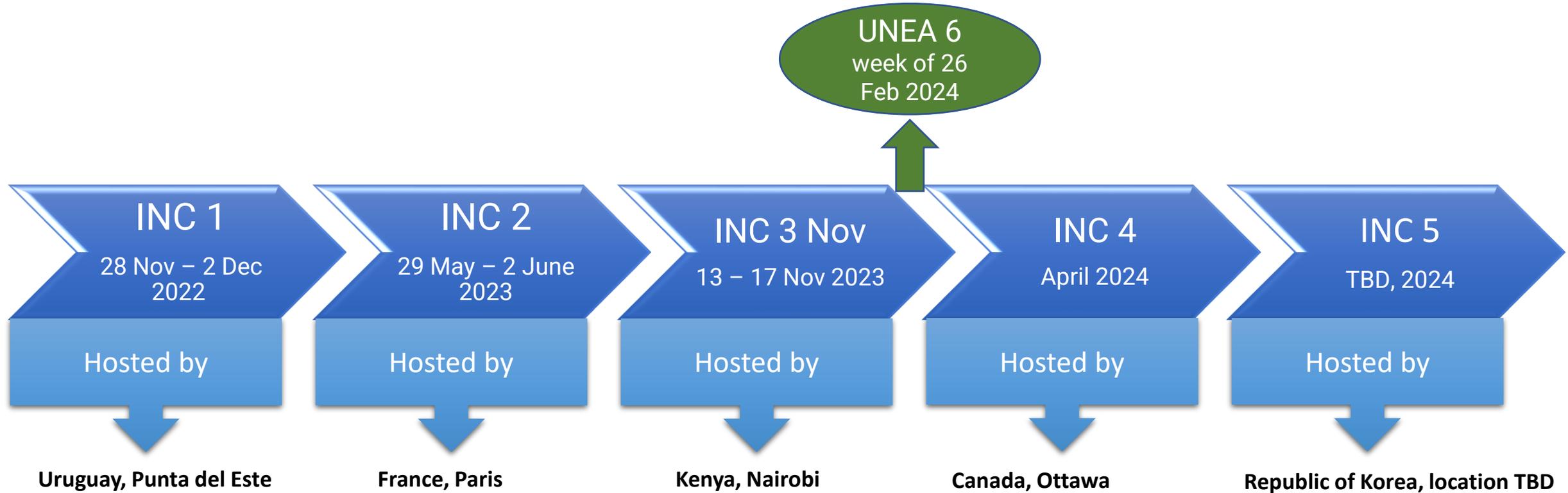
The resolution specifies that the instrument:

- i. Could include both binding and voluntary approaches;
- ii. Be based on a comprehensive approach that addresses full life cycle of plastic;
- iii. Take into account, among others, the Rio Declaration and national circumstances and capabilities.

Process: End Plastic Pollution Resolution in a nutshell

- Requested the Executive Director of UNEP to convene an **ad hoc open-ended working group (OEWG)** in the first semester of 2022 to prepare for the work of the INC.
- To convene an **intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC)**:
 - To begin its work during the second half of 2022, with the ambition of completing its work by the end of 2024;
 - To convene a multi-stakeholder forum in conjunction with INC-1 to exchange information.
- To convene a **diplomatic conference of plenipotentiaries** upon completion of negotiations to adopt the instrument and open it for signature.

Timeline for the INC process



INC-2: Making Paris count

- 29 May to 2 June 2023 in Paris, France.
- Over 1,600 in-person participants representing:
 - 167 States members of the Committee and the European Union
 - over 370 observer organizations including UN entities, international organizations and NGOs.
- Election of the Vice-chairs to the Bureau of the INC took place, including a Rapporteur.
- After lengthy discussions, the INC adopted an interpretive statement on the draft rules of procedure. The draft rules of procedure apply provisionally to the work of the INC.
- Substantive discussions took place through 2 contact groups focused on (i) possible objective(s) and substantive obligations and (ii) other focused on means of implementation and implementation measures.
- 12 thematic-side events took place.

All meeting documentation is available at: <https://www.unep.org/events/conference/second-session-intergovernmental-negotiating-committee-develop-international>

Full coverage of the meeting was provided by Earth Negotiations Bulletin: <https://enb.iisd.org/plastic-pollution-marine-environment-negotiating-committee-inc2-summary>

INC-2: Making Paris count

INC-2 determined the **mandate for next steps to INC-3**:

- Chair, with the support of the Secretariat, to **prepare a zero-draft text of the international legally binding instrument** for consideration at INC-3:
 - guided by views expressed at INC-1 and INC-2;
 - range of views could be indicated in the draft text through options.
- Invite submissions from Observers by 15 August and Members of the Committee by 15 September on (a) elements not discussed at INC-2 and (b) on any potential areas for intersessional work. Submissions to be uploaded online.
- Requested the secretariat to prepare a synthesis report of submissions on (a) elements not discussed at INC-2, to be discussed at a 1-day preparatory meeting to be held back-to-back with INC-3.

INC-2: Making Paris count

Regarding (b), potential areas for intersessional work identified in the Contact Groups:

Contact Group 1

- Information on definitions, e.g. plastics, microplastics, circularity.
- Information on criteria, also consider different applications and sectoral requirements, including:
 - Chemical substances of concern in plastics,
 - Problematic and avoidable plastic polymers and products and related applications
 - Design e.g. for circularity, reuse
 - Substitutes and alternatives.
- Potential substances of concern in plastics, problematic and avoidable plastic polymers and products
- Potential sources of release of microplastics (applications and sectors).

(*A longer list is included in the co-facilitators report)

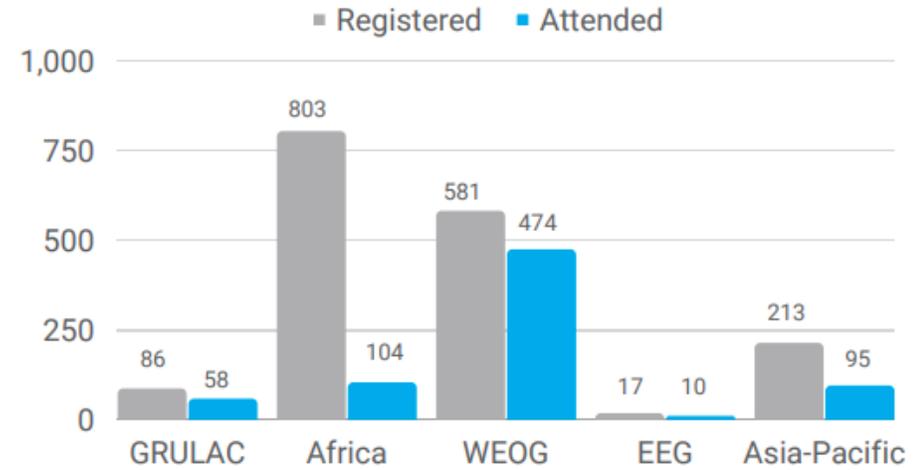
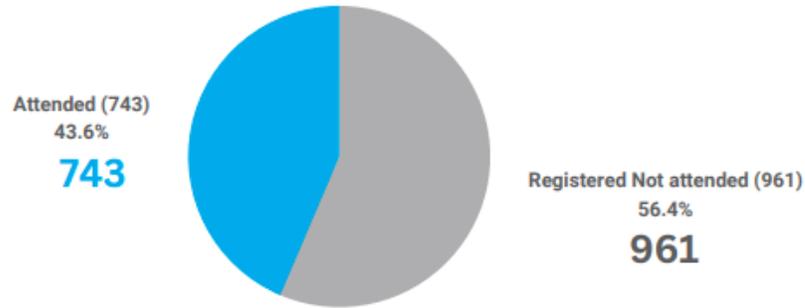
Contact Group 2

- Potential role, responsibilities and composition of a science and technical body
- Potential scope of and guidance for National Action Plans
- Other MEA and instruments:
 - identify current provisions on cooperation and coordination that could be considered
 - consider how others provide for monitoring, and suggest best practice
- Options to define 'technology transfer on mutually agreed terms
- Consider how a potential financing mechanism could work
- Options to mobilise & align private & innovative finance
- Map current funding and finance available
- Identify capacity building and training needs for each Member.

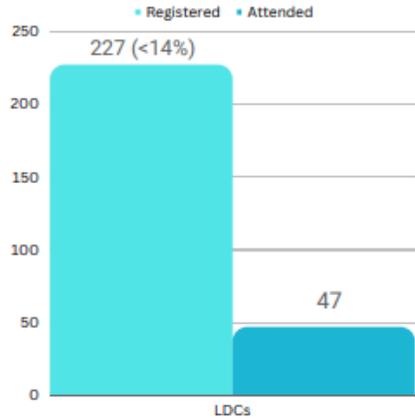
Participation of observers from Non-Governmental Organizations at INC-2

1704*

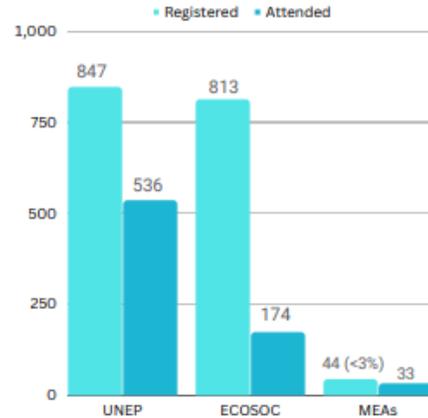
*Total number of individuals from NGOs registered and approved, including those in delegations of more than one representative.



LDCs



Accreditation



SIDs (<1%)

17
Registered

11
Attended

Top number of observers from NGOs at INC-2 by country

Global

USA	112
France	72
United Kingdom and Northern Ireland	67
Belgium	45
Switzerland	39

GRULAC

Brazil	16
Argentina	14
Colombia	7
Chile	5
Mexico	4

LDCs

Democratic Republic of the Congo	10
Bangladesh	8
Mali	7
Chad	5
Senegal	3

Africa

Nigeria	15
Cameroon	12
South Africa	12
Democratic Republic of the Congo	10
Ghana	6
Liberia	6
Kenya	6

EEG

Russian Federation	5
Georgia	1
Armenia	1
Belarus	1
Moldova	1
Slovenia	1

SIDs

Singapore	5
Mauritius	3
Trinidad	1
Fiji	1
Antigua and Barbuda	1

WEOG

USA	112
France	72
United Kingdom and Northern Ireland	67
Belgium	45
Switzerland	39

Asia and the Pacific

India	23
China	12
Philippines	11
Indonesia	9
Bangladesh	8

INC-3: the road to Nairobi

INC-3 is scheduled to take place from **13 to 17 November 2023**, in Nairobi:

- Discussions at INC-3 will focus on the zero-draft text.
- The third session will be preceded by regional consultations on Sunday, 12 November 2023.
- A preparatory one-day meeting to discuss the synthesis report prepared by the secretariat will be convened back-to-back with INC-3, prior to the opening of the session.

INC-3: the road to Nairobi

Regional preparatory meetings will take place prior to INC-3:

- Funding is available to support the travel of delegates from developing countries and countries with economies in transition.
- It would be recommended to schedule the meetings once the meeting documents are available in the first week of October.
- The secretariat will liaise with regional offices regarding the regional preparatory meetings.



Thank you

For questions and queries, please write to:

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