

# Negotiating a legally binding instrument on plastic pollution

## Update on the INC process

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SEAPP Western Balkans regional waste conference

26 March 2024, Vienna

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Kerry Allbeury, INC Secretariat

## UNEA resolution 5/14:

"End plastic pollution: Towards an international legally binding instrument"

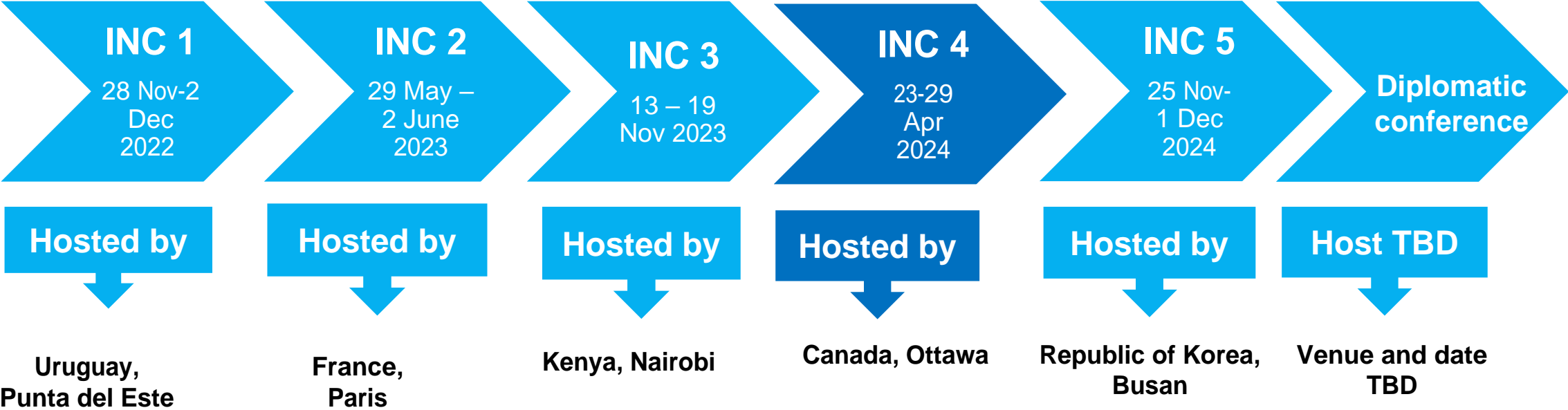
- Adopted on 2 March 2022
- Requested the Executive Director of UNEP to convene an **intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC)** to negotiate an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.
- With the ambition of completing its work by the **end of 2024**.

# UNEA resolution 5/14

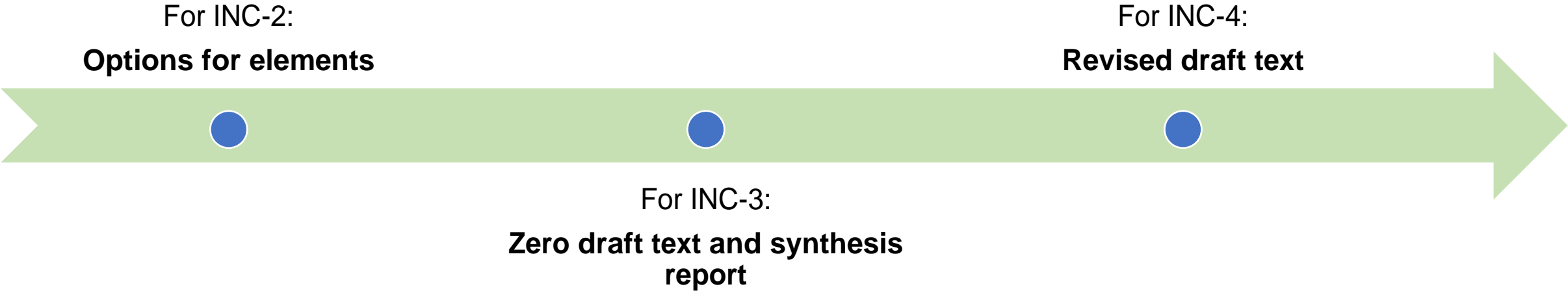
The resolution provides, among others, that the instrument "**could include both binding and voluntary approaches, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastic**, taking into account, among others, principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development as well as national circumstances and capabilities, and including provisions:

- To specify the objectives of the instrument
- To promote sustainable production and consumption of plastics (...)
- To promote national and international cooperative measures to reduce plastic pollution in the marine environment, including existing plastic pollution
- To develop, implement and update national action plans reflecting country-driven approaches to contribute to the objectives of the instrument
- To specify national reporting, as appropriate
- ... "

# Intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC) - Process timeline



# Intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC) – Meeting documents



# Third session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-3)

13 to 19 November 2023 (UNON, Nairobi, Kenya)

- **Three contact groups established**, to consider different potential elements of the future instrument
- The Committee requested the Secretariat to compile a “**revised draft text**”, based on merged texts put forward by contact groups 1 and 2, and the outcome document of contact group 3.
- The revised draft text will be the **starting point and basis for textual negotiations at INC-4**, without prejudice to the right of any Member to propose additions, deletions or modifications during the negotiations at INC-4.
- Election of a **new Chair of the Committee**, Ambassador Luis Valdivieso of Ecuador, and 2 Vice-Chairs.
- Agreement on the **dates for INC-4** in Canada (Ottawa, 23-29 April 2024) **and INC-5** in Republic of Korea (Busan, 25 November-1 December 2024)

# Fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-4)

23 to 29 April 2024 (Ottawa, Canada)

- § As agreed at INC-3, the revised draft text to be the **starting point and basis for textual negotiations at INC-4**, without prejudice to the right of any Member to propose additions, deletions or modifications in the course of negotiations at INC-4.
- § The session will be preceded by **regional consultations** on 21 April 2024.
- § **A Partnership Day** will be hosted by the Government of Canada on 22 April (separate event from the INC)

## Revised draft text: UNEP/PP/INC.4/3

- Made available in English on 28 December 2023
- Prepared by the secretariat pursuant to mandate from INC-3
- **Structure based on outline of the “zero draft text”: 6 parts**
- Compiles the texts contained in outcome documents of the 3 contact groups at INC-3
- Contains options for each item, including “zero” options



# Part I

1. Preamble

2. Objective

3. Definitions

4. Principles

5. Scope

# Part II

1. Primary plastic polymers

2. Chemicals and polymers of concern

3. Problematic and avoidable plastic products, including short-lived and single-use plastic products and intentionally added microplastics

*3bis.* Micro- and nanoplastics

4. Exemptions available to a Party upon request

*4bis.* Dedicated programmes of work

5. Product design, composition and performance

6. Non-plastic substitutes

7. Extended producer responsibility

8. Emissions and releases of plastic throughout its life cycle

9. Waste management

10. Trade [in listed chemicals[,polymers] and products, and in plastic waste][related measures]

11. Existing plastic pollution, including in the marine environment

12. Just Transition

13. Transparency, tracking, monitoring and labelling

*13bis.* overarching provision related to Part II

# Part III

1. Financing  
[mechanism[and  
resources]]

2. Capacity-building,  
technical assistance  
and technology  
transfer

# Part IV



## Part V

1. Governing  
body

2. Subsidiary  
bodies

3. Secretariat

## Part VI

Final provisions

# Possible annexes to the instrument

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**Annex A:** Primary plastic polymers, and chemicals and polymers of concern

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**Annex B:** Problematic and avoidable plastic products, including short-lived and single-use plastic products and intentionally added microplastics

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**Annex C:** Product design, composition and performance

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**Annex D:** Modalities for the establishment and operation of EPR systems based on common principles

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**Annex E:** Emissions and releases of plastic through its life cycle

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**Annex F:** Waste management

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**Annex G:** Format for national plans

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**Annex [X]:** Effective measures at each stage of plastic lifecycle

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# Side events and webinars

## Webinars

Date	Theme
Wednesday 27 March	Observers
Thursday 28 March	Observers

## Side events

Date	Theme
Wednesday 24 April	Plastic pollution in the marine environment
Wednesday 24 April	Approaches to capacity building, financing and financial mechanisms
Thursday 25 April	Enabling just transition

# INC-4 Meeting documents

## Working documents

Document symbol	Title
UNEP/PP/INC.4/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/PP/INC.4/1.add	Annotated agenda
UNEP/PP/INC.4/2	Draft Rules of Procedure
UNEP/PP/INC.4/3	Revised draft text
UNEP/PP/INC4/4	Chair's scenario note (to be issued)

## Information documents

### INF submitted by the Secretariat

UNEP/PP/INC.4/INF/1	Update - Plastics science (UNEP/PP/INC.1/7) (to be issued)
UNEP/PP/INC.4/INF/2	Update - Overview of existing funding currently available for addressing plastic pollution through international funding arrangements, including from other processes, programmes, multilateral funds, development banks and private sector initiatives (UNEP/PP/INC.1/9; UNEP/PP/INC.1/INF/10) (to be issued)

### INF documents submitted by UN entities and MEAs



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**Thank you!**

For questions and queries, please write to:

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