

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

Bureau meeting

Monday, 12 August 2024

15:00- 16:00 (GMT+3)

Online

MEETING REPORT

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.

1. The Chair of the INC, Luis Vayas Valdivieso (Ecuador), welcomed members of the INC Bureau and opened the meeting.
2. The meeting was attended by the following members:
INC Chair: Mr. Luis Vayas Valdivieso (Ecuador);
African States: Mr. Ndiaye Cheikh Sylla (Senegal);
Asia-Pacific States: Mr. Hiroshi Ono (Japan); Mr. Mohammad Al-Khashashneh (Jordan);
Eastern European States: Mr. Harry Liiv (Estonia);
Latin American and Caribbean States: Mr. Gustavo Meza-Cuadra Velasquez (Peru);
Small-Island Developing States: Ms. Asha Challenger (Antigua and Barbuda);
Western European and Other States: Ms. Johanna Lissinger-Peitz (Sweden); Ms. Larke Williams (United States of America).
3. The Secretariat was represented by the Executive Secretary of the INC, Ms. Jyoti Mathur-Filipp, and INC Legal Adviser, Ms. Marianna Bolshakova.
4. The INC Chair welcomed the Bureau and expressed his intention for the one-hour meeting to focus on preparations for the Bureau retreat in Geneva scheduled for 19 – 20 August 2024 in Geneva.
5. The Executive Secretary welcomed the Bureau and expressed that she was very much looking forward to the in-person meeting in Geneva the following week.
6. The meeting agenda was adopted without further additions.

Agenda Item 2. Planning of the Bureau retreat.

Summary of discussions

7. The INC Chair recalled that a draft roadmap to INC-5 prepared by him was circulated to the Bureau on 22 July 2024 together with the retreat programme. The Chair noted some comments had been received on the agenda through bureau members. The roadmap could be developed during the retreat with Bureau members. The Bureau welcomed the proposal to work on further developing the roadmap during the retreat.
8. The Executive Secretary provided logistical updates on the Bureau retreat. All Bureau members, intersessional co-chairs and co-facilitators who applied for travel support to attend the meeting in-person were issued their tickets. She also provided updates on in-person and online attendance and access to the venue of the retreat.
9. The Bureau discussed the allocation of sufficient time during the meeting to discuss INC-5 organization of work, INC5 expected outcomes, including the types of decisions that would need to be taken at the Diplomatic Conference and in the lead-up to COP-1.
10. The INC Chair clarified that the updated programme for the informal retreat would be sent out by 13 August 2024 with several minor adjustments.

Discussion outcomes and follow-up

INC Chair will share the updated programme on the Bureau retreat, including guiding questions, by the 13 August 2024.

Agenda Item 3. Other matters.

11. The Executive Secretary provided a logistical update on the in-person informal Heads of Delegation meeting, the invitation for which was circulated on Tuesday, 6 August 2024. The meeting will take place on 30 September and 1 October 2024 in Nairobi. The deadline to apply for travel support is Sunday, 18 August 2024 and the deadline to register is Sunday, 15 September 2024. In addition to the in-person meeting, the Chair also would like to have an online informal meeting for Heads of Delegations in the week of 16 September 2024. A notification on this will be circulated to Members.
12. With respect to regional consultations, clarification was provided that while the secretariat was not in a position to support separate intersessional regional consultations, regions could decide to hold their own meetings. Further to this, rooms will be made available for regional meetings in the mornings of Monday, 30 September 2024, and Tuesday, 1 October 2024, on the margins of the informal heads of Delegations meeting in Nairobi. Additionally, arrangements have been made for pre-session regional consultations to take place on 24 November 2024 in Busan.
13. The Executive Secretary informed the Bureau that invitation letters for INC-5 were circulated on 18 July 2024. Registration deadline is Friday, 20 September, 2024, and the deadline for travel support is Friday, 30 August 2024. Registration for INC-5 and

the application for travel support are two separate processes and delegates nominated to receive travel support should submit their travel support application after their registration is approved.

14. The Executive Secretary further provided logistical updates on the in-person meetings of the intersessional ad-hoc expert groups in Bangkok. As previously communicated, the Government of Thailand agreed to issue visa exemptions only to national experts who are not eligible for an e-visa and have no Thai Embassy or Consulate in their country of residency. The exemption is discretionary and was kindly arranged for by the Host Country to avoid the need for experts to travel to another country to apply for the visa. The Secretariat sent out most of the letters to the national experts that are eligible for visa exemption this arrangement. Out of the 113 participants eligible for a visa exemption, 12 did not share their itineraries despite several follow-ups. These 12 visa exemption requests, regrettably, could not be processed due to the deadlines involved in providing information to the Thai authorities. For experts with Thai consulates in their country of residence, a visa application guide with detailed instructions is available on the INC website and was also circulated with the invitation letters on 30 May 2024.
15. The secretariat noted that it received a number of requests from observers to participate in the meetings of the two expert groups. It clarified that the nature of mandated intersessional meetings and participation eligibility were not within the mandate of the Secretariat to determine. In making arrangements for the meeting, the secretariat was guided by the decision of the INC-4 on this matter.

Agenda Item 4. Closure of the meeting.

16. The meeting closed at 16:30 pm.