



NOW IS THE TIME FOR COURAGE

THE INC MOVES SWIFTLY INTO CONTACT GROUPS TO TACKLE SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS

“[...] we are not just reviewing a document; we are setting the foundation for a global tool that can change the future of environmental history.”

H.E. Luis Vayas Valdivieso,
*INC Chair and Ambassador of Ecuador to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,
during Plenary on Day 1 of INC-5.2*

NEWS IN BRIEF

- The Chair opened the second part of the fifth session of the INC and swiftly moved through agenda items 1-4. The Committee agreed to start Contact Group discussions as outlined by the Chair's [scenario notes](#), with slight adjustments in scheduling to avoid Contact Groups (CGs) 1 and 3 happening in parallel.
- New proposals on text, including those suggesting improvements to the Chair's text on [essential must-haves for an ambitious and effective treaty](#), have been submitted to the in-session platform—which will remain open until the end of Thursday, August 07.
- **CG1** started in the afternoon, completing the first round of discussions on Article 2 (Definitions), scope (no article in the Chair's text) and Article 6 (Sustainable consumption and production).
 - On definitions, states had varied views on which terms should be defined but broadly recognised that definitions shape obligations. The CG agreed to revisit the article once further obligations have been clarified.
 - On scope, many states reiterated the scope as clearly outlined in UNEA Resolution 5/14, emphasizing that a dedicated article is unnecessary. Some however insisted on a more restrictive scope and inclusion of a dedicated article.
 - On sustainable consumption and production, states considered options in the Chair's text (no text, or text based on the [proposal by Panama on behalf of 100+ countries](#)) and [Japan's new submission](#). Several states backed Option 2 in the Chair's text as a compromise text showing flexibility, while a few supported Japan's version. A vocal minority maintained that Article 6 is a non-negotiable red line.
 - States diverged on the approach for next steps, including Co-chairs' proposal to prepare text iterations according to the day's discussions. Co-chairs decided to allow on-screen line-by-line editing as next steps, despite a large group of states opposing the approach.
- **CG4** started in the afternoon and had an initial discussion on Article 1-1bis, and Articles 26-32.
 - The group discussed options to define the treaty's objective in Article 1, with broad support for “ending plastic pollution” and protecting human health and the environment. Delegates debated the inclusion of full life cycle language, and called for clearer and concise text. Co-chair committed to drafting a bridging proposal for future negotiations. Further discussions on Principles (Article 1bis) were expected in an informal later in the evening but were postponed due to other CGs conflicting schedules.

- On Articles 26-32, the group discussed which articles are ready for consideration in plenary and agreed to forward Articles 31 (depository) and 32 (authentic texts) to the plenary. For remaining articles, co-chairs committed to synthesising the text based on the views expressed by negotiators for further discussions.
- **CG2** started in the evening, with a plan to negotiate Articles 7–10.
 - Progress stalled after divergent views on Article 7, with some states supporting the [UK-Panama proposal](#) and others questioning the need for the article altogether.
 - Co-Chairs advised further informal consultations on the proposal, while all contributions remain on the table for future consideration.
- **CG3** started in the evening, discussing Article 11 (Financial [resources and] mechanism)
 - The group began with an interactive session focused on updated positions and bridging ideas for Article 11, with some delegations reaffirming support for existing proposals and others introducing new text.
 - While the discussion was constructive, it remained general. There are currently ideas on the table on how to merge, and co-chairs opened up the possibility of moving some discussions into an informal setting.

PROGRESS ON ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

WWF's daily bulletins at INC-5.2 will continue to use the traffic-light system to track the status of essential elements for an effective legally binding global treaty to end plastic pollution. Progress will be rated for each element as:

- green (on track towards strong text for an ambitious treaty);
- yellow (on track towards strong text, but slow progress);
- orange (heading in a counterproductive direction); and
- red (regressing, on track towards weak treaty text).

While the Committee moved forward with negotiations in Contact Groups on Day 1 and new proposals have been submitted, there is not yet much progress on treaty text on the must-have elements.

Must-have elements	As of end of Day 1
Binding global bans and phase-outs of specific plastic products, including those containing chemicals of concern	On track towards ambitious text, but slowly
Harmonised requirements on product design and systems necessary for a non-toxic circular economy	Heading in a counterproductive direction
A comprehensive financing and means of implementation package	On track towards ambitious text, but slowly
Mechanisms to enable strengthening of the treaty over time	On track towards ambitious text, but slowly

ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON TREATY MUST-HAVES

Binding global bans and phase-outs of specific plastic products, including those containing chemicals of concern	On track towards ambitious text, but slowly
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Summary: Article 3 was not discussed on Day 1. The Chair's text provides provisions on binding global phaseouts of specific plastic products, including those containing chemicals of concern, albeit bracketed despite broad majority support. A [newly submitted proposal](#) by Mexico and Switzerland on behalf of 77 states streamlined the Chair's text while retaining: a binding obligation for global phaseouts; an initial list of specific plastic products, including those containing chemicals of concern, to be phased out globally; and a procedure for additional global

listings in the future. [Australia's proposal](#) introduces a real-time register of national import bans to enhance transparency and compliance, and ensures global listing proposals are backed by information that justifies international action. Improved language on references to Indigenous Peoples in Article 3 (and other articles across the treaty) was proposed by [Canada on behalf of 45 countries](#).

Recommendations to progress: WWF urges all member states to support these proposals, and request their integration into the text basis for further negotiations at INC 5.2. States must not allow the essential elements of this article to be watered down.

Harmonised requirements on product design and systems necessary for a non-toxic circular economy	Heading in a counterproductive direction
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Summary: Article 5 (Plastic Product Design) was not discussed on Day 1. The Chair's text includes a mandatory requirement for each party to take appropriate measures to improve product design, but lacks details on the harmonisation of product design (i.e., no global criteria for plastic product design). New [proposal by 22 countries](#) introduces language to improve the Chair's text, adding details on global harmonisation through the development of sector- and product-specific design and performance criteria and the COP's consideration to adopt an annex. [Russia's proposal](#) removes from the Chair's text details on the principles relevant to product design improvements.

Recommendations to progress: WWF urges all member states to support the proposal submitted by 22 countries, and ensure that the Chair's text is improved. States must ensure that plastic product design aligns with circular economy principles and comply with design and performance criteria. The article must include a clear COP mandate to support implementation, including future work on global design and performance criteria with a sectoral approach, to be considered for an annex adoption.

A comprehensive financing and means of implementation package	On track towards ambitious text, but slowly
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Summary: The Chair's text contains comprehensive solutions and clearer outlines—compared to earlier text versions—for robust financing, but key elements remain bracketed. Discussions in CG3 were constructive towards finding solutions for the finance package, with possible informal discussions scheduled to bridge proposals.

Recommendations to progress: During the discussions at INC 5.2, WWF urges members to ensure that the means of implementation package includes both public and private sources, and to provide adequate and accessible finance, governed in a transparent manner by the COP, to enable effective implementation. Additionally, parties must aim to align both public and private financial flows with the treaty's objective.

Mechanisms to enable strengthening of the treaty over time	On track towards ambitious text, but slowly
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Summary: Articles 20-24 were not discussed in details during Day 1. In the Chair's text, the voting option—as a last resort in case consensus cannot be reached—for adopting new annexes, and amendments to the treaty and annexes, is bracketed in Articles 23-24 (on amendments and annexes). The voting option on other decisions is *not* included in Article 20 (Conference of the Parties). A new proposal on Article 20 by [Colombia and Peru on behalf of 113 states](#) introduces a paragraph enabling the COP to make decisions by vote as a last resort—following the precedent set by the [High Seas \(BBNJ\) Treaty \(Article 47, para 5\)](#). Proposals by [Kazakhstan](#) (Articles 20, 23-24), the [Arab Group](#) (Article 20) and the Russian Federation (on Articles [20](#) and [23](#)) insisted on consensus as the only option for decisions on matters of substance.

Recommendations to progress: Member states are urged to support the proposal by Colombia and Peru on behalf of 113 states in CG4. Together, Articles 20, 23 and 24 must allow for majority decision-making for all COP decisions. Additionally, the COP should be able to adopt its rules of procedures through voting if consensus cannot be reached.

WHAT TO EXPECT ON DAY 2

- CG1 and CG4 will resume in the morning. CG1 will start discussions on Articles 3 (Plastic Products), 4 (Exemptions) and 5 (Plastic Product Design). New proposals are expected to be presented in CG1. CG4 is expected to continue on the remaining articles, namely Preamble, Articles 13-25. New proposals are expected to be presented in CG4. Both are expected to break in the afternoon and continue in the evening.
- CG2 and CG3 will resume in the afternoon. CG2 will continue work on Articles 7-10. In CG3, discussions will continue on Articles 11 and 12, with the possibility of discussions in an informal setting.
- WWF urges states to consider new proposals and requests co-chairs to provide new text iterations based on the discussions, avoiding line-by-line text negotiations on articles with vastly divergent views in the first reading. Proposals with strong support from large numbers of states must be considered and integrated in text basis for negotiations.



or visit:

www.panda.org/plastictreaty

for information on the treaty negotiation, including timeline, reports, briefs and quick guide to the INC

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