



TIME TO SWITCH GEARS

INCREASED EFFICIENCY NEEDED IN CONTACT GROUPS

NEWS IN BRIEF

- **CG1** met in the afternoon, where states proposed specific text insertions into and deletions in Article 5 (Plastic Product Design) of the Chair's text, and finished its first reading of the article. The proposal by [Chile and the United Kingdom](#) attracted significant support and is now backed by 32 states. Article 3 was discussed in an informal in the evening.
- **CG2** met twice, discussing Article 9 in the morning and Article 10 in the evening. An informal on Article 8 also took place at lunch.
 - The Article 9 proposal by [Palau on behalf of SIDS](#) received wide support from members. There was also broad support for the establishment of a remediation mechanism operating under the guidance and authority of the COP.
 - The evening session focused on Article 10, compiling textual changes proposed by states into the Chair's text. The status of work on [Article 7](#) and [Article 8](#) is shared on the in-session document platform.
- **CG3** met twice, conducting on-screen text edits on Article 12 in the morning and an Informal on Article 11 took place in the afternoon. The status of work on [Article 11](#) is shared on the in-session document platform.
 - On capacity-building and technology transfer, the morning session focused on paragraph 1 of Article 12, debating the categories of states that should provide the assistance and those that should be eligible to receive such support.
 - In the evening, the CG discussed the way forward on their work and it was decided that the CG was to be extended on Day 4, with a session running from 2pm until 6pm. Co-chairs are to share a new text based on Chair's text and all proposals from INC 5.1 and INC 5.2, as well as oral submissions and the informal consultations, aiming to make the text simpler where possible, to facilitate textual negotiations. The new version will include tracked changes and provide transparency.
- **CG4** met in the afternoon, followed by informals on Articles 19, 20 and 20bis. The status of work on [Articles 20, 20bis, 23, Articles 21, 22, 24, 25](#), and [Articles 1,1bis,26-32](#) is shared on the in-session document platform.
 - During the session, the group received a report from the informal on Article 1bis, then concluded its first reading of Article 19 (Health) and Article 13 (Implementation and Compliance). States moved into an informal to discuss the text on Article 19, which currently has no text.

PROGRESS ON ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

WWF's daily bulletins at INC-5.2 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).

Must-have elements	As of end of Day 3
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: There was no formal discussion on Article 3 on Day 3. The report from the informal on Article 3 will be shared in the next session of CG1 on Day 4. The proposals remain the same as yesterday—including the [Swiss-Mexico proposal on behalf of 78 states](#), which remains the best basis for negotiating the essential elements in Article 3. This text can be complemented by the [Australia proposal](#) and [Canada proposal on behalf of 46 countries](#). Without any formal outcome, the substance of this must-have—at least formally—is considered unchanged. Progress, however, has been very slow due to lack of clarity on the way forward on text finalisation.

Recommendations to progress: WWF urges member states to continue defending the essential elements of Article 3—including a global obligation, an initial list for global phaseout, and a science-backed process for future global listings. The Swiss-Mexico proposal contains all of these elements and has the broadest support amongst all those submitted on Article 3. States must stand firm in the informal and the main CG discussions to ensure that the core elements are maintained. A drastic improvement in the working methods will be essential to ensure this article is able to progress towards streamlined and ambitious text.

Harmonised requirements on product design and systems necessary for a non-toxic circular economy	Heading in a counterproductive direction
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Summary: During the first reading of Article 5, numerous textual changes were introduced to the chair's text. As part of the Chile-UK proposal (now co-sponsored by 32 countries), key elements such as resource efficiency and the concrete mentioning of reuse and recycling systems were added. Also, language was inserted to clarify the role of the COP, including a timeline to establish a work programme and the mandate for the COP to develop and adopt design and performance criteria in an annex. However, at the same time, numerous brackets and text suggestions were introduced to water down the content of the article, eliminate key elements essential for the functioning of the article, make remaining measures voluntary and obstruct meaningful work by the COP towards a truly circular economy for plastics.

Recommendations to progress: We urge member states to support the elements of the UK-Chile proposal and use this to as a basis to improve the Chair's text, and further improve it by making this an effective obligation with reference to common global criteria and a clear process for the COP to develop them in an Annex.

A comprehensive financing and means of implementation package	On track towards ambitious text, but slowly
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Summary: On capacity-building and technology transfer, states made on-screen text edits to paragraphs 1. Divergence remains on which categories of countries should provide capacity-building and technology transfer, which are eligible to receive such support, and the precise wording of terms under which such support is to be conducted under the treaty.

The discussion on finance made significant progress on the way forward. The co-chairs were given the trust and mandate to provide a new text for textual negotiations, to be shared in the morning and discussed in the afternoon. Several developed countries have also clearly reiterated their readiness to engage in constructive discussions on a hybrid model of the financial mechanism that could include a financial instrument in addition to the [GEF](#).

Recommendations to progress: Member states are recommended to welcome the new text from the Co-chairs as the basis for textual negotiations, continuing the constructive dialogues towards acceptable solutions to the means of implementation package.

Mechanisms to enable strengthening of the treaty over time

On track towards ambitious text, but slowly

Summary: There were no formal discussions on Article 20, 23 or 24 on Day 3. The proposals on the table remain the same as yesterday—including the text from [Colombia and Peru on behalf of 118 states](#), providing a critical element to enable a functional COP that states must protect. The support for the Colombia-Peru proposal—from approximately two-thirds of all member states represented at this INC—demonstrates that there is a majority in favour of decisive action.

The status of work on [Articles 20 and 23](#) reflects all options for the COP decision-making, including both the option for majority vote as a last resort and the option that requires consensus to make any decision. Outcome of the informal on Article 20 will be shared in the next session of CG4.

Recommendations to progress: Member states must not compromise on the text proposed by Colombia and Peru in the informal discussion and in future contact group sessions. With 118 states supporting the proposal, and vocal support on the floor, this is by far the specific-text proposal that is backed by the largest group of states in this negotiation. This group of states must continue to defend the text to ensure an effective treaty that evolves and adapts with future developments. States are encouraged to join the growing list of supporters for this proposal. Additionally, states should support the effort to lower the threshold for decisions in Article 23 to two-third majority.

WHAT TO EXPECT ON DAY 4

- CG1 will start informals on Article 5 at 10am and on Article 3 at noon. CG1 will convene in the evening at 6.30pm.
- CG2 will have informal informals on Articles 7-10, and resume the CG work at 3-6pm.
- CG3 will have an extended session midday, starting at 2pm, and discuss the new text from the Co-chairs, to be uploaded in the morning.
- CG4 is planning for a discussion of the remaining articles, namely Preamble and Articles 14-18 at 10am, and a report back from the informal on Article 20. CG4 will continue their work in the evening at 6.30pm.
- WWF urges member states to progress their work on substance and switch gears on efficiency. Trust and control should be given to the CGs' co-chairs to drive the drafting process, as suggested by the Chair and agreed by the INC in plenary on Day 1. A continuation of the current work methods and inefficiency in CGs discussions will prevent any meaningful progress towards clean text for an effective and ambitious treaty.



or visit:

wwwf.panda.org/plastictreaty

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

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