



# DAY 4 OF FOOT-DRAGGING

## ENTRENCHED WAYS OF WORKING STALL MEANINGFUL PROGRESS

It has been 250 days since the negotiations should have ended in Busan. In that time more than 7,000,000 tonnes of plastics have poured into our oceans.

WWF urges the ambitious majority of countries that have committed to achieving a strong treaty to step up. The constraints of the current way of working are **a choice**. The ambitious majority must take back control of this process and turn their strength in numbers into a treaty that will protect people and nature.

What you choose to protect or to ignore will have an impact on generations to come. The world will look back at this moment and remember this choice.

**Courage, over compromise.**

### NEWS IN BRIEF

- **CG1** met in the evening, after two informals—on Articles 3 and 5—were conducted during the day.
  - Informal discussions made partial progress on Articles 3 (paragraph 1) and 5, with textual edits to the Chair's text. Several states emphasized that very little progress had been achieved. However, the co-chairs reached agreement to present a snapshot of progress in the plenary, clearly marked as non-agreed text, with footnotes indicating the status of discussions.
  - Informals will continue on both Articles 3 and 5, starting with Article 3 in the evening of Day 4.
  - That status of work for [Article 3 \(through para 1\)](#) and [Article 5 \(all paras\)](#) can be found on the in-session document platform.
- **CG2** met in the afternoon.
  - States discussed Articles 7–10 with varying levels of agreement. Article 7 remained contentious due to concerns over scope, definitions, and process, leading to a footnoted version being sent to plenary.
  - Articles 8, 9, and 10 saw broader support to move forward, though some states expressed reservations and procedural concerns, especially regarding late-stage proposals and lack of inclusive participation in informal sessions.
  - Texts for Articles 8, 9, and 10 were scheduled to be sent to plenary based on versions dated August 6–7. Informal sessions were planned to continue discussions.
- **CG3** met in the afternoon.
  - The group discussed Article 12, focusing on streamlining the first four paragraphs. There was broad support for simplifying language, avoiding overly prescriptive terms, and ensuring inclusive references to developing countries, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities. Trade-related provisions sparked debate, with many suggesting they should be addressed in other CGs. Paragraphs 5–7 were not negotiated and will be presented in brackets for stocktaking.
  - The co-chairs proposed using their text as the basis for Article 11 negotiations. While several states noted missing elements or concerns over footnotes and structure, the group agreed to proceed with the text. The

group will continue discussions through informal sessions and line-by-line negotiations, with a focus on identifying and addressing divergent views.

- **CG4** met in the morning, before an informal on Article 19 in the afternoon, and resuming in the evening.
  - In the report back from the informal on Article 20, progress was made on the first three paragraphs, though some states insisted decisions be made by consensus. Some raised concerns that Article 20bis overlaps with Article 20.
  - CG4 completed the first reading of Article 13 and began Articles 14–18, with key divergences on whether national plans and reporting should be mandatory or voluntary, and on the role of financial and technical support. There was strong support for integrating Indigenous Peoples' rights across articles. The Preamble discussion highlighted overlaps with Article 1bis and differing views on references to health, scope, and other treaties.
  - States debated how to reflect progress in the stocktaking plenary, with agreement that post-8pm discussions would not be included in the immediate report but would inform future work. Informal and informal-informal discussions were proposed to make progress.

## 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 4
Binding global bans and phase-outs of specific plastic products, including those containing chemicals of concern	Heading in a counterproductive direction
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

<b>Binding global bans and phase-outs of specific plastic products, including those containing chemicals of concern</b>	Heading in a counterproductive direction
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**Summary:** Informal discussions made partial progress on [Article 3 \(through para 1\)](#). This text, which will be forwarded to the plenary with footnotes noting the status of the negotiations, has significantly expanded the Chair's text with many suggestions that will not advance an effective treaty. With continued informals on Article 3 planned to continue adding to the text, this article is now heading in a counter-productive direction.

This text does not provide a useful starting place for discussions, and support should continue to be provided to the clean [Swiss-Mexico proposal on behalf of 78 states](#), complemented by the [Australia proposal](#) and [Canada proposal on behalf of 46 countries](#).

Informals were planned to continue on both Articles 3 and 5, starting with Article 3 in the evening of Day 4.

**Recommendations to progress:** Despite the procedural hurdles, there remains far more support behind the Swiss-Mexico proposal than any other proposal submitted on Article 3. WWF urges member states to continue defending the essential elements of Article 3—including a global obligation, an initial list for global phaseouts, 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. An improvement in the working methods will be essential to ensure this article is able to progress towards streamlined and ambitious text.

<b>Harmonised requirements on product design and systems necessary for a non-toxic circular economy</b>	Heading in a counterproductive direction
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**Summary:** Co-chairs shared the development of [the text](#) after informal negotiations on Article 5, including alternatives on whether states “shall”, “should” or “may” work on product design. Nevertheless, Article 5 does have a lot of support in the room on its merits for being included in the instrument.

Overall, in the current text, there are more elements that could water down the substantive content of this article, than elements that could ensure the global harmonisation of plastic product design in accordance with circular economy approaches. Divergences remained unresolved while the draft text became further bloated.

**Recommendations to progress:** WWF continues to urge member states to support the elements of the [UK-Chile proposal](#) and use this 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 the criteria in an Annex.

<b>A comprehensive financing and means of implementation package</b>	On track towards ambitious text, but slowly
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**Summary:** [Article 12](#) on capacity building and technology transfer made progress on paragraphs 1-4, while 5–7 were left untouched. Divergence remained on the country categories for contributors and recipients and for cooperation. On [Article 11](#), the co-chairs’ streamlined text was accepted as a workable basis for future negotiations. States recognised that the text required further work, but were committed to constructive engagements and conducting line-by-line negotiations and informals to finalise the text.

**Recommendations to progress:** WWF recommends members to engage constructively on the co-chairs’ streamlined text—a good basis for negotiations. For the Options under the financial mechanism, WWF recommends members to use Option 3 as basis for further negotiations.

<b>Mechanisms to enable strengthening of the treaty over time</b>	On track towards ambitious text, but slowly
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**Summary:** There were no formal discussions on Article 20, 23, or 24 on Day 4. A report on the informal on Article 20 shared that progress was made on the first three paragraphs. The informal did not have sufficient time to cover the remaining paragraphs, which included the provisions on decision-making mechanisms of the COP.

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 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.

**Recommendations to progress:** With 118 countries backing the Colombia–Peru proposal—representing a clear majority—member states must hold the line. This text reflects what is needed for an effective, future-proof treaty. Supporters must continue championing it in all discussions, and others are urged to join this growing coalition. To ensure swift, decisive progress, states should also support lowering the Article 23 decision-making threshold to a two-thirds majority.

## WHAT TO EXPECT ON DAY 5

- Plenary is set to start at 11am.
- CG1: There were no planned sessions at the time of writing. Informals may be convened on some topics.
- CG2: Initial planning for informals was announced when the group closed on Day 4: Article 8 (Aug 8, 8:30–10:30pm), Article 7 (Aug 9, 2:30–5pm), and Article 9 (Aug 9, 5:30–8pm). This plan is yet to be confirmed and not yet in the official INC schedule app.
- CG3: There were no planned sessions at the time of writing. Informals may be convened on some topics.
- CG4: There were no planned sessions at the time of writing. Informals may be convened on some topics.
- Only informal consultations are expected for Day 6.
- If CGs continue their current way and pace of negotiations in the remaining days, there is no credible pathway for the last four days of INC-5.2 to make meaningful progress on the text for an ambitious and effective treaty. The finalisation of the text by Day 9 of INC-5.2, as expected by the Chair's scenario notes, is at serious risk.
- WWF urges states to demand a change to the current ways of working to enable progress to accelerate.



or visit:

**[wwfpanda.org/plastictreaty](https://wwfpanda.org/plastictreaty)**

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



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CH-550.0.128.920-7

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