



LOW STOCKS

STOCKTAKING PLENARY REPORTED LITTLE PROGRESS ON CLEAN TEXT

NEWS IN BRIEF

- [The plenary](#) was convened in the morning of Day 5 for stocktaking on progress of work in the first four days.
 - All four CGs reported on the status of work across areas each group was mandated, with [CG1](#) making limited progress on Articles 2–6, [CG2](#) completing first readings of Articles 7–10, [CG3](#) advancing Article 12 (paragraphs 1–4) and co-chair's streamlined text on Article 11, [CG4](#) covering Articles 13–18 and the Preamble.
 - CGs outcomes are compiled in the [assembled text](#) by the INC Secretariat, with footnotes on what the CGs have not discussed. The assembled document has nearly 1,500 pairs of square brackets (compared to around 300 in the [Chair's text](#) before INC-5.2), indicating the growing number of unresolved disagreements on the text across articles.
 - The Chair emphasized the urgency of streamlining text, finalizing converged articles, and supporting co-chairs in cleaning up the text. The Chair noted he will continue to meet with the co-chairs to advance on challenging articles. Articles 31 and 32 were approved for transmission to the Legal Drafting Group.
 - Many states expressed concern over slow progress and procedural inefficiencies, and some shared difficulties of participation in informals. There were strong calls for transparency, inclusivity, and a shift toward more focused, time-efficient, and time-bound negotiations.
- **CG1** met briefly in the afternoon to report back on informals on Article 3 (Day 4 evening) and Article 5 (Day 5 afternoon).
 - The informal on Article 3 completed a first reading of all paragraphs, inserting additional text, brackets and positions into the Chair's text. The [status of text](#) can be found in the in-session portal. Limited progress was made in the informal on Article 5, as discussions did not advance past entrenched positions.
 - The group continued discussion on Article 5 in an informal in the evening.
- **CG2** did not have any official meetings on Day 5. Informals took place on Articles 7 and 9.
- **CG3** met in the evening, focusing on Article 11.
 - States engaged in discussions on the co-chair's proposed text, and added concepts from existing submissions that were perceived as not adequately reflected. This unfortunately led to ballooning of the text and disagreements between members, making the text unmanageable.
 - Several members pointed out the importance of constructiveness, good faith, and cooperative spirit. The group pulled itself back to constructiveness and members huddled to decide on the way forward, showing the cooperative spirit needed.
- **CG4** met in the afternoon and completed its first reading of the preamble. To expedite the process, states agreed to upload their remaining interventions on Articles 14–18 onto the portal, which co-chairs committed to reflecting in the assembled text. An informal on Article 19 also took place during the day.

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 5
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

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

Summary: Informal discussions completed the first read-through on [Article 3](#), expanding the text significantly and creating a lengthier basis for further discussions. Informal-informals are expected to be convened to continue discussing Article 3 over the weekend. With the result thus far, the negotiations have transformed the initial Chair's text—with excessive brackets and alternative wordings to begin with—into an even more exceedingly bracketed and convoluted text. Without any clear direction nor pathway to streamline it into a legible text for effective global measures to phase out harmful plastics, this article continues to head in a counter-productive direction.

Recommendations to progress: The [Swiss-Mexico proposal](#), backed by 83+ countries, presents a clean text that contains both national measures to address problematic plastic products, and a global, binding obligation to phase out the most harmful and avoidable plastic products. It also outlines a science-backed process for future global listings to be adopted by the COP. Each of these elements has received support from various groups of states. None of the other proposals contain all elements.

This proposal therefore provides the best basis to begin the streamlining work, as all states can find the different elements they support reflected therein. The proposal has also garnered far more support than others submitted on Article 3. The [Australia proposal](#) and [Canada proposal on behalf of 46 countries](#) can be merged into the Swiss-Mexico text for a more comprehensive basis to start text streamlining work. WWF urges states to stand firm in the informal and main CG discussions to ensure that the core elements are maintained. A drastic change in the working methods will also be essential 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
---	--

Summary: Informal discussions on Article 5 commenced after the plenary. During the day, new lines were added, resulting in even more bloated text. During stocktaking in the CG1 afternoon session, states agreed that they are not advancing and to meet for another informal session in the evening to discuss the underlying concepts first and align

before informal-informals on Sunday. Assessment of the current text indicates that the negotiations are still heading in a counterproductive direction, and not getting closer to a clean text on globally harmonised plastic product design.

Recommendations to progress: WWF urges states to not lose sight of the forest for the trees. States should avoid further bloating the text and instead focus on the essential elements to make this an effective article, which are contained in the [UK-Chile proposal](#). Specifically, states should retain and consolidate the text on reuse systems, outline a clear timeline for the COP schedule and process of work, and include a mandate for the COP to develop criteria in an annex. States should park the discussions on topics that are covered under other articles for now, such as technology transfer or trade, until these are resolved in their main provisions.

A comprehensive financing and means of implementation package	On track towards ambitious text, but slowly
--	---

Summary: States engaged in detailed textual negotiations on Article 11, focusing on missing concepts and structure. Key proposals included compensation funds, leveraging public-private networks, burden-sharing, access for SIDS and LDCs, and review mechanisms. The group also discussed issues of equity, transparency, and effectiveness of the FM, as well as the inclusion of economies in transition.

Despite divergent views and initial concerns about text ballooning, the group managed to move past tit-for-tat insertions and maintain constructive engagements in the end. States agreed that co-chairs would prepare a new iteration of paragraphs 1–7 based on the session’s inputs. Informal discussions on FM options would follow, with further CG review scheduled for Monday. While the discussions have made good progress on Article 11, many details on the FM still need to be addressed and finalised.

Recommendations to progress: The co-chair’s new iteration of text is expected to provide a clearer foundation for further negotiations. States are strongly encouraged to maintain the collaborative and solution-oriented spirit—demonstrated in the session on Day 5—especially as discussions move into informal settings on the financial mechanism. Continued engagement in good faith will be essential to shaping a fair, robust, and inclusive financing package for the treaty.

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 5. The status of this must-have remains unchanged from the previous day.

The proposals on the table remain the same—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 remain unchanged from the previous day.

The Colombia–Peru proposal is backed by 118 states that represent the super-majority in the negotiations and member states must hold the line to ensure 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 in future COPs, states should also support lowering the Article 23 decision-making threshold to a two-thirds majority.

WHAT TO EXPECT ON DAY 6

There will not be any formal meetings convened on Day 6. Contact groups and/or a stocktake plenary will reconvene on Day 7.

- **CG1:** A room will be made available for informal-informals on one Article after the other from 10am-1pm and 3-6pm, although there is no set schedule.
- **CG2:** Informals may be convened on some topics.
- **CG3:** Co-chairs will prepare a revised clean text for paragraphs 1–7 of Article 11, based on Day 5 inputs and the previous co-chairs' text. The remaining text will be discussed in informal settings focused on the financial mechanism, with the group reconvening on Monday (Day 7) to report back before continuing informals.
- **CG4:** Informals on Articles 14-18 and 23bis have been flagged and may take place on Day 6.



or visit:

wwf.panda.org/plasticstreaty

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



For more information, contact:

Zaynab Sadan

Global Plastics Policy Lead
zsadan@wwf.org.za



Working to sustain the natural world for the benefit of people and wildlife.

together possible™

panda.org

WWF, 28 rue Mauverney, 1196 Gland, Switzerland. Tel. +41 22 364 9111
CH-550.0.128.920-7

WWF® and World Wide Fund for Nature® trademarks and ©1986 Panda Symbol are owned by WWF-World Wide Fund For Nature (formerly World Wildlife Fund). All rights reserved.