



THE FINAL COUNTDOWN

COUNTRIES MUST NOT COMPROMISE ON CRITICAL ELEMENTS TO GET A DEAL AT ANY COST

With only two days of negotiations to go, WWF calls on states to ensure that proposals from the ambitious majority on Articles 3, 5, and 20 are integrated and reflected in text negotiations, and defend them against attempts to water down these essential elements in the treaty text.

NEWS IN BRIEF

- **CG1** met in the afternoon to report back on informal-informals on Article 3, Article 6 and scope, as well as an informal on Article 5.
 - Informal-informals on Article 3 were reported to be constructive discussions – while divergence remains, the co-facilitators suggested it might be possible to find common ground and encouraged proposals that focus on finding solutions.
 - Informals on Article 5 increased understanding, but additional work is needed to identify what delegates want to achieve with this article. The co-facilitators have provided guiding questions and areas to identify potential landing zones and suggested that these would be best undertaken in an informal-informal-informal setting.
 - Informal-informals on Article 6 focused on a conceptual discussion, though it was noted that more direction was needed to advance. Some states indicated that they would not discuss Article 6 further.
 - Informal-informals on scope were described as constructive, though several countries stated their unwillingness to move forward on scope discussions without a clear pathway forward on Article 6. This issue remains unresolved, as the CG was adjourned due to schedule limitations.
- **CG2** did not convene on Day 8, but had several informals, on Articles 7, 8, 9 and 10.
- **CG3** met briefly in the afternoon and continued discussions on Article 12, paragraph by paragraph. The CG awaits guidance from the Chair on Article 11.
- **CG4** met twice to report back on Day 7 informals on Articles 14-16, 20, 20bis, 23bis, 1bis and the preamble. Disagreement remains on the decision-making approach for the COP, however nearly 120 countries are supporting the [Colombia-Peru proposal](#). The contact group discussed Article 30 (Withdrawal) and was able to remove the brackets and forward it to plenary.

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 7
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

For deeper assessments and recommendations on treaty must-haves, please refer to the [Day 5 bulletin](#). Due to the frequency of informals and informal-informals, and lack of progress on streamlined text on must-have elements in the treaty, the assessment and recommendations on these elements have not changed significantly. However, the latest outcomes of the informal discussions in [CG1 on Article 3](#) could be cause for concern.

If new text is shared during day 9, the WWF delegation will provide a special bulletin with analysis and recommendations on the way forward.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO PROGRESS

This instrument *must* ban problematic and avoidable plastic products and chemicals of concern at a global level. The [Swiss-Mexico proposal](#) on Article 3, formally supported by 85 countries, is still the strongest and best-supported basis for treaty text on this global rule. We urge the ambitious majority to maintain this red line, based on this non-exhaustive list of reasons:

- **Widespread support:** Global bans and phaseouts are supported by [more than 140 governments](#), including the nearly 100 member states who signed onto [the Mexico statement at INC 5.1](#). This binding measure has also received broad public support across the world, with a 2022 survey showing that an estimated [75% of people across 30 countries](#) want unnecessary single-use plastics to be banned on a global scale.
- **Highly effective:** This obligation can significantly reduce and/or directly eliminate the hazards and pollution risks *from the source*—without increasing the pressure to scale expensive end-of-life management. [Binding global rules are predicted to reduce global mismanaged plastic waste by at least 50%](#) by 2040 when compared to business-as-usual, and at least 23% when compared to a fragmented, country-by-country approach.
- **Cost-efficient:** Global rules will also lead to significant cost savings for governments, with global bans of problematic plastic products resulting in estimated [net savings of up to 8 trillion USD by 2040](#).
- **Demonstrated impact on other issues:** Lessons learned from other MEAs show that global prohibitions are highly effective and accelerate innovations. Through global bans, the Montreal Protocol has [phased out more than 98% of ozone-depleting substances](#) and set the ozone layer on a gradual but definite path to recovery. After the Protocol entered into force, leading industry companies developed substitutes on much quicker timelines, and with [1.4–2.5 times lower costs than expected](#)—indicating the benefits of a harmonised, predictable regulatory landscape towards directing business investments and innovations.

A treaty that aims to “[end plastic pollution](#)” must reduce the most highly-polluting products and chemicals, stopping the problem at its source. Read more in [WWF’s INC-4 brief on why global bans are needed](#).

WHAT TO EXPECT ON DAY 9

- CG1 is scheduled in the morning at 10AM, the schedule does not include information on informals.
- CG2 is scheduled in the morning at 11AM, the schedule does not include information on informals.

- CG3 is scheduled in the morning at 11AM, the schedule does not include information on informals.
- CG4 is scheduled in the morning at 10AM, the schedule does not include information on informals.
- No plenary has been officially scheduled as of 9AM on the morning of Day 9.
- [New installation from WWF at Place Des Nations](#), signal your ambition there and press the stop button on the plastic crisis!



or visit:

[wwf.panda.org/plastic treaty](https://www.panda.org/plastic treaty)

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

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