



BOILING POINT

AMBITIOUS MAJORITY REJECTED CHAIR'S TEXT, DEMANDING A TREATY WITH GLOBAL RULES

"This is not about closing the treaty at any cost, it is about closing a wound that we're leaving open in people's lungs, in our rivers, in our oceans. But the text presented here make that wound fatal and we will not accept it."

- Juan Carlos Monterrey Gómez,
Special Representative for Climate Change and Head of Delegation, Panama
during Plenary on Day 9

On Day 9, the Chair released a [Chair's Draft Text Proposal](#) which does not include any binding global rules or meaningful obligations. **This text proposal will not effectively tackle plastic pollution and will lock the global community into the status quo for decades to come.**

Rather than a compromise, this text only reflects the perspectives of a few very vocal minority countries. Although the text is prefaced by its intention to present "a balanced outcome, carefully considering the red lines, sensitivities, aspirations, and goals expressed by different delegations," **it does not respect any of the redlines outlined by the progressive majority.**

There is no global binding obligation on plastic products, and no mention of chemicals, despite the fact that over the last three years, [140 states have called for global bans and phase outs](#) through [ambitious statements at INC-5](#), the [Nice Wake Up Call](#), and the [Mexico-Switzerland proposal on plastic products](#). There is no binding obligation on plastic product design requirements either, despite [129 countries calling for this obligation](#). And—[despite support from 120 countries on specific text to enable the COP to take decisions by vote as a last resort](#)—there remains no pathway for the COP's decisions on matters of substance and procedures, other than amendments and annexes, in the current text. While there is a multilateral fund, there is **no obligation to contribute to the fund.**

The latest draft text is a devastating blow to everyone at INC-5.2 and all those around the world suffering day in and day out as a result of plastic pollution.

WWF has called on all states to reject this text, which more than 80 countries did in the plenary session.

NEWS IN BRIEF

- Each of the four CGs met briefly to recap the most recent progress from informals and inform participants that the Chair would release a draft text and then convene a plenary.
- **Over a 3.5-hour plenary session, more than 80 states took the floor (before the Chair closed the list) and outright rejected moving forward with the Chair's text**, pointing out that it had fully abandoned any attempts to meaningfully address plastic pollution. Following the plenary – and despite strong disagreement from dozens of states – the Chair moved into regional consultations on the basis of the draft 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 9 |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Binding global bans and phase-outs of specific plastic products, including those containing chemicals of concern | Regressing, towards weak treaty text |
| Harmonised requirements on product design and systems necessary for a non-toxic circular economy | Regressing, towards weak treaty text |
| A comprehensive financing and means of implementation package | Regressing, towards weak treaty text |
| Mechanisms to enable strengthening of the treaty over time | Regressing, towards weak treaty text |

The [Chair’s text](#), released at 14h50 on Day 9, 13 August 2025, presents no global rules to phase out problematic plastic products, or to improve plastic product design in accordance with global criteria. It also does not include any mention of chemicals of concern.

The financial mechanism includes a multilateral fund, but no obligation for financial contributions. Other than decisions on amendments and annexes, the COP does not have an option to vote on decisions of substance and procedures as a last resort.

This is not a treaty, and it certainly will not deliver any essential measures that would meaningfully address the plastic pollution crisis.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO PROGRESS

During the negotiations, the world has witnessed a strong and growing ambitious majority who is fighting for an effective instrument to end plastic pollution. On the final day of the negotiations, this ambition must be backed by equivalent political will, and most importantly, action. Communities and citizens across the world will count on their representatives here at the negotiations for the critical push that gets us over the finish line, and delivers an ambitious and effective treaty to end plastic pollution.

More than a negotiation, this is a test of leadership and the ability of the international community to harness multilateralism for real solutions, in a shifting geopolitical landscape. Here at INC-5.2, we have the opportunity to establish fair and enforceable rules to end plastic pollution, a crisis that transcends borders, which no country can solve alone. *This is a historic opportunity we cannot let pass.*

To effectively end plastic pollution, the treaty must set global binding rules—to level the playing field, accelerate innovations, and prevent a voluntary-commitment race to the bottom:

- First, it must establish global bans and phase-outs of problematic and avoidable plastic products and chemicals of concern.
- Second, it must harmonise plastic product design and performance, through binding global criteria and enabling systems, for a non-toxic circular economy in practice and at scale.

These strong measures must be backed by an equally robust financing and means of implementation package. Lastly, we need an instrument that can be strengthened over time, which requires a functional COP that can make decisions even when consensus cannot be reached.

Since the negotiations started on the 4th of August, the support for clean text proposals that reflect these elements has kept growing, even though the Chair's text did not take them into account. The reaction to this fact by the ambitious majority was loud and clear in the plenary of Day 9. With over 120 states backing a strong, legally binding treaty with all these essential elements, the ambitious majority have the strength in numbers to make this deal happen. This demonstrates that there will be no consensus for a treaty without these essential elements.

It is up to member states what will be decided on the final day of INC 5.2. WWF urges states to *not* move forward on the basis of the Chair's text, and urges the ambitious majority to choose their own pathway, work on an alternative text, and if needed, put it to a vote on the final day of INC 5.2.

WHAT TO EXPECT ON DAY 10

- A revised Chair's text is expected to be released, following regional consultations in the evening of Day 9.
- The plenary is scheduled at 3PM, where the Committee is expected to consider the pathway forward to conclude the negotiations.



or visit:

www.panda.org/plastictreaty

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
owned by WWF-World Wide Fund For Nature (formerly World Wildlife Fund). All rights reserved.