TIME TO SCALE EFFORT
THREE DAYS MORE TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS AT INC-4

HIGHLIGHTS OF DAY FOUR, INC-4

- The committee crossed the halfway point of INC-4 schedule, and noted the remaining work of the session:
  - Subgroup 1.1 finished first read through of all assigned provisions. Subgroups 1.2 and 1.3 completed first read through of a number of provisions assigned to the groups, with work on Part II. 3bis, 4, 10a, and 13 remained incomplete.
  - Subgroup 2.1 discussed Part V.1; only two paragraphs (9 and 10) remaining to complete this section. Subgroup 2.2 completed a read through of Part IV.
  - In the plenary session, contact groups’ co-chairs reported on progress; the committee agreed on two groups’ discussions running in parallel with the option of an additional third as necessary, during reasonable hours. The INC Chair shared his view on intersessional work, expected to build on results of contact groups. A legal drafting group is expected to be established on the last day of INC-4.

NEWS IN BRIEF¹

- Contact Group 1:
  - A joint session of subgroups 1.2 and 1.3 on fishing gear was conducted in the morning. Member states generally agreed to continue the discussions in only one subgroup, and that the co-facilitators would prepare new technical streamlined text on this subject. Divergence remains on the placement of the text in the treaty draft.
  - Following the joint session, subgroup 1.2 completed the first reading of a number of provisions:
    - On Problematic and avoidable plastic products, Option 1 was favored by many delegations. States overall perceived the need for clear definitions and guidance on science-based criteria. Several proposals were introduced, including by Georgia, Peru, Rwanda, Switzerland and Thailand, by the United Kingdom and Thailand; and a conceptual framework by the European Union and its Member States, on Part II. 2, 3 and 5, and their connection. Many states emphasised and aligned on the need for intersessional work.
    - On Product Design, Composition and Performance, there is broad support for the provisions, despite the insistence from a small minority of states on Option 0 (no text). States generally supported Part II. 5.b, while several suggested to move recycling aspects in these provisions to those on waste management. Means of implementation was highlighted as an important element.
    - On alternative plastics, many states supported the view that they must be subject to the same risk reduction as any other plastics, across their life cycle. On non-plastic substitutes, there was no clear

¹ From 8PM April 25, until 8PM April 26, 2024
alignment amongst states on neither the inclusion nor the placement of the provisions. Some proposed a merge with alternative plastics, while others suggested a connection with provisions on products.

- On **dedicated programmes of work**, there were divergent views on whether the provisions should be kept, deleted, or discussed at a later stage, with expectations for possible new text proposals.

- On **primary plastic polymers**, there were varying levels of support, ranging from preference for Option 0 (no text), to the support for adherence to the UNEA mandate of covering the full life cycle of plastics in the treaty, with emphasis on sustainable production and consumption. The proposal introduced by Rwanda and Peru received support from a number of delegations. Some states proposed intersessional work on this provision.

- Subgroup 1.1 finished the first read through, with brief discussions in the afternoon on **Part II. 12 and 13bis**, on just transition and the overarching provisions related to Part II. New **streamlined proposals on just transition** are shared by the co-facilitators.

- Subgroup 1.3 streamlined the texts on **waste management provisions** into on main text, based on Option 1 (as Option 2 received no support). On **trade-related measures**, many states referred to the relevant measures of the Basel Convention, and the need to minimise duplications of work. On **existing pollution**, the key debate was on potentially differentiated responsibilities amongst states.

- Overall, states voiced concern that more time should be dedicated to both subgroups’ discussions. Provisions 3bis (intentionally added microplastics), 4 (exemptions), 10a (trade in listed chemicals, polymers and products), and 13 (labelling) of Part II in the **Revised Draft Text** were planned for the evening—but the work were not completed due to the plenary session at 8PM.

- **Contact group 2:**
  - Subgroup 2.1
    - During the discussion on **Part V.1 (governing body)** in the afternoon, most countries viewed the text as a good basis for further discussions. The Government of Norway submitted its proposal orally for decision-making by the governing body, stipulating all efforts to reach consensus must be made, with voting provisions where all attempts at consensus have been exhausted; this received support from a wide variety of countries from all regions. Some countries expressed preference for decision-making based only on consensus.

    - WWF is supportive of the proposal for intersessional work made by Samoa on behalf of SIDS, including three expert working groups, one of which would assess a range of financing options and a wide variety of funding sources. Noting the importance of financing to achievement of the instrument’s objectives, WWF believes this dedicated work would provide valuable insight and shared understanding as a basis for decisions at INC-5.

  - Subgroup 2.2
    - Subgroup 2.2 in the afternoon concluded its review of **Part IV. 5 (international cooperation); Part IV. 6 (information exchange); Part IV. 7 (awareness raising, education and research)** and **Part IV. 8 (stakeholder engagement)**. There was some support for a proposal to create standalone sections on 1) education and awareness-raising and 2) research. There were very mixed views on whether paragraph 8 bis (**health aspects**) should be a standalone article and/or operationalised throughout the instrument, or not included at all. Inclusion of human health in **Resolution 5/14** was raised by a number of states as rationale for retaining and strengthening.
WHAT TO EXPECT ON DAY FIVE (27 APRIL 2024)

- Sub-groups will reconvene to complete a first read through of outstanding paragraphs.
- Line-by-line negotiation will commence based on streamlined texts.
- Two subgroups will run concurrently, with the potential for a third to run simultaneously but only if deemed essential, and only during reasonable hours.
- All streamlined texts are found here.

WWF RECOMMENDATIONS

For Day Five:

With only three days remaining in the session, and 10 days scheduled until states have committed to concluding negotiations by the end of 2024, it is critical that states speed up progress and build on the solid discussions undertaken to date. WWF urges states to undertake negotiations firmly focused on achieving the following outcomes by the end of the session:

- Agree on intersessional workplan for these top priorities:
  - Criteria to assess and list plastic products and chemicals for bans and phased reductions.
  - General and sector-specific requirements for product design and performance towards non-toxic circularity.
  - Specific details on implementation measures, including compliance, reporting, and assessment; and on financial mechanisms.
- Ensure progress on treaty draft text ahead of the final adoption at INC-5 in Busan, Republic of Korea.

For further information for expected discussions throughout INC-4, recommended priority areas and WWF recommendations on the revised draft text, please see WWF’s Technical Paper.

Please see the details for each contact group and subgroup on the next page.
## Contact Group 1

**Co-chaired by Ms. Gwendalyn Kingtaro Sisior, Ocean Advisor, Permanent Mission of Palau to the United Nations (Palau) and Dr. Axel Borchmann, Deputy head of unit, Ministry for the Environment (Germany)**

| Subgroup 1.1 | Co-facilitated by Dr. Julius Piercy, UK Lead Negotiator, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (United Kingdom) and Ms. Sara Elkhouly, Third Secretary, Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Nairobi, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Egypt) | Part I: 1 preamble; Part I: 2 objective; Part I: 3 definitions; Part I: 4 principles; Part I: 5 scope; Part II: 12 just transition; Part II: 13 bis overarching provision relating to Part II |
| Subgroup 1.2 | Co-facilitated by Ms. Maria Angelica Ikeda, Director of the Department of Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Brazil) and Mr. Erlend Draget, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Climate and Environment (Norway) | Part II: 1 Primary plastic polymers; Part II: 2 chemicals and polymers of concern; Part II: 3 problematic and avoidable plastic products including short-lived and single-use plastic products and intentionally added microplastics; Part II: 3 bis micro- and nanoplastics; Part II: 4 exemptions available to a party upon request; Part II: 4 bis dedicated programmes of work; Part II: 5 product design, composition and performance; Part II: 6 non-plastic substitutes; Part II: 9(b) waste management: fishing gear; Part II: 10(a) trade in listed chemicals, polymers and products and in plastic waste related measures; Part II: 13 transparency, tracking, monitoring and labelling |
| Subgroup 1.3 | Co-facilitated by Sr. Andres Duque Solis, Tercer Secretario – Grupo de Trabajo sobre Asuntos Ambientales, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores (Colombia) and Mr. Alshehri, Abdulrahman Ali A., Delegate, National Center for Environmental Compliance (Saudi Arabia) | Part II: 7 extended producer responsibility; Part II: 8 emissions and releases of plastic throughout its life cycle; Part II: 9(a) waste management: plastic waste management; Part II: 10(b) transboundary movement of non-hazardous plastic waste; Part II: 11 existing plastic pollution, including in the marine environment |

## Contact Group 2

**Co-chaired by Mme. Kate Lynch, Division Head Circular Economy, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Australia) and Mr. Tommy Oliver Boachie, Special Advisor to the Minister, Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (Ghana)**

| Subgroup 2.1 | Co-facilitated by Ms. Karekaho Naomi Namara, Head Communications, National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) Principle Corporate & Communications Officer (Uganda) and Mr. Antonio Miguel Luís, Deputy Permanent Representative to UNEP, Embassy of Portugal in Nairobi (Portugal) | Part III: 1 Financing mechanism and resources; Part III: 2 capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer |
### Subgroup 2.2
Co-facilitated by Mme. Marine Collignon, Deputy Head of the Environment and Climate Department, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (France) and Mr. Danny Rahdiansyah, Deputy Permanent Representative for UNEP and UN-HABITAT, Embassy of Indonesia in Nairobi (Indonesia)

### Part IV: 1 National action/implementation plans; Part IV: 2 implementation and compliance; Part IV: 3 reporting on progress of implementation; Part IV: 4 periodic assessment and monitoring of the progress of implementation of the instrument and effectiveness evaluation; Part IV: 5 international cooperation; Part IV: 6 information exchange; Part IV: 7 awareness raising, education and research and development; Part IV: 8 partner and stakeholder engagement; Part IV: 8 bis health aspects; Part V: 1 governing body; Part V: 2 subsidiary bodies; Part V: 3 secretariat; Part VI final provisions

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or visit:
wwf.panda.org/plastictreaty
for information on the treaty negotiation, including timeline, reports, briefs, and quick guide to the INC process.