GROWING CONVERGENCE
EARLY SIGNS OF A SUCCESSFUL SESSION

HIGHLIGHTS OF DAY TWO, INC-4

- Both contact groups progressed into subgroup discussions on substantive matters throughout the day:
  - Contact Group 1 (CG1) finished its initial round of discussions on potential directions for streamlining during the morning session. CG1 then moved into subgroup discussions.
    - Subgroup 1.1 was tasked with discussing Part I.1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and Part II.12 and 13bis. Member States started discussions based on the technical streamlined text, beginning with the texts in preambular paragraphs.
  - Contact Group 2 (CG2) started discussions in the afternoon, Subgroups 2.1 and 2.2 convened and completed a first reading of Parts III and IV, after the technical streamlining process.

Please see the table at the end of the document for the full list of all Parts assigned to each subgroup.

NEWS IN BRIEF1

- Contact Group 1:
  - Contact Group 1 finished their initial round of discussions regarding the potential streamlining of the text during the morning session. The co-chairs were then mandated to produce new technical streamlined text.
  - The streamlined text related to subgroup 1.1—tasked to discuss Part I.1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and Part II.12 and 13bis—was uploaded on the INC website in the afternoon. The committee welcomed the streamlined text and used it for further discussions on the preamble, objective, definitions, and principles of the treaty, from 7-10PM.
  - The first session for subgroup 1.3 - tasked to discuss Part II: 7, 8, 9(a), 10(b), 11 - is postponed. The first session for subgroup 1.2 - tasked to discuss Part II: 1, 2, 3, 3bis, 4, 4bis, 5, 6, 9(b), 10(a), 13 - is scheduled for Day 3 of the session.

- Sub-groups 2.1 and 2.2:
  - Sub-groups 2.1 and 2.2 convened to provide general views and specific preferences on Parts III and IV, based on the new streamlined text developed overnight by the co-chairs.
  - There was extensive discussion on Part III.1 paragraph 4, with substantial convergence on the need for a straightforward and concise text on the financing mechanism, including recognition of particular circumstances.
  - A first reading was completed of Part IV.1-2. Based on these discussions, the co-facilitators received a mandate to technically streamline Part IV articles 1 and 2.

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1 From 8PM April 23, until 8PM April 24, 2024
WHAT TO EXPECT ON DAY THREE (25 APRIL 2024)

- In the morning, two subgroups 1.3 and 2.1 will run in parallel.
- In the afternoon, two subgroups 1.2 and 2.2 will run in parallel.
- In the evening, Contact Groups will resume at 7PM, before breaking out into subgroups 1.2 and 2.2, with the expectation to end the work on Day Three in both subgroups at 10PM.²

WWF RECOMMENDATIONS

For Day Three:

In subgroup 1.2:

- WWF urges states to streamline the key setups and specific texts for prioritised control measures:
  - Binding, global bans, phase-outs and phased reductions to eliminate high-risk and avoidable plastic products and chemicals of concern.
  - Binding, global requirements on product design and performance to ensure reduction, reuse and safe recycling for all plastic products.
  - Be specific on the necessary elements of prioritised implementation measures.

- WWF recommends delegations to support in-session documents that advance the development of lists and criteria for elimination of products, chemicals or polymers and use them as basis for further discussions at INC-4.

- WWF commends new proposals on chemicals and polymers of concerns (submitted by Norway, on behalf of Norway, Cook Islands, and Rwanda), on problematic and avoidable plastic products (submitted by the United Kingdom, on behalf of United Kingdom and Thailand) and on an initial list of problematic and avoidable plastic products considered for elimination (submitted by Georgia, Rwanda, Switzerland and Thailand), which have further developed details of these provisions based on ‘Option 1’ (binding-obligation option).

In subgroup 1.3:

- WWF recommends states to prioritise discussions on binding obligations for mandatory Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes, and banning polluting practices, as well as setting requirements for waste management systems, and collective efforts on existing pollution.
  - Streamlining texts based on binding obligation of Part II.7, and planning for details in annex D, including list of specific products that are subjected to mandatory EPR schemes at the national level.
  - Streamlining texts based on binding obligation of Part II.9.a, ensuring that prohibited practices, and requirements for waste management systems are included as part of annex F.
  - Strengthening the texts in Part II.11 on means and methods for recovering high-impact pollutants, in prioritized accumulation zones, hotspots and sectors in the provision on existing plastic pollution.

² See new schedule here
In subgroup 2.1, WWF recommends states to complete a full reading of Part III, using the co-chairs’ streamlined text as a basis for discussion. We urge states to focus on working towards a comprehensive finance package, utilizing all available sources and including a robust financing mechanism for the implementation of specific binding measures; as well as other non-financial means of implementation, including technology transfer, technical assistance, and capacity building.

In subgroup 2.2

- WWF recommends that in discussions states focus on building broad support and planning intersessional work for the most pressing issues related to the long-term effectiveness of the treaty, and mechanisms to facilitate technical assistance, capacity building and technology transfer—based on lessons from effective and successful multilateral environmental agreements.

- The mechanisms to enable gradual strengthening of both control and implementation measures in the treaty, including, for example, clear responsibilities of treaty bodies for making necessary recommendations based on implementation results, procedures for amending the treaty and its annexes, mechanisms to review the lists of chemicals and polymers of concern, and problematic and avoidable products, in annexes.

- Robust institutional setups that ensure the creation and management of subsidiary bodies, such as a scientific body, and an implementation and compliance body, to suit the treaty’s implementation needs. These bodies should be established with the goal of assisting the strengthening of the treaty’s global rules and means of implementation over time.

At INC-4, WWF urges states to:

- 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.

- Mandate the development of a full draft of the treaty text before INC-5.

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 next page for details on the details of each Contact Group and subgroup.
### Contact Group 1

Co-chaired by Ms. Gwendalyn Kingtar 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. Katherine Lynch, Division Head, 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 Rahdiamsyah, Deputy Permanent Representative for UNEP and UN-HABITAT, Embassy of Indonesia in Nairobi (Indonesia)

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

**For more information, contact:**
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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.