United Nations Environment Programme

26 September 2026

Intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment
Bureau meeting
Saturday, 26 September 2026
17:00- 18:00 GMT+7
In-person, Bangkok

SUMMARY

INC BUREAU MEETING 26 SEPTEMBER 2026

Note by the Secretariat

Attendance

Chair

- Julio Cordano (Chile)

Bureau Members

- Mohammed Albarrak (Saudi Arabia)
- Linroy Christian (Antigua and Barbuda)
- Harry Liiv (Estonia)
- Johanna Lissinger-Peitz (Sweden)
- Gustavo Meza-Cuadra Velasquez (Peru)
- Hiroshi Ono (Japan)

Observers to the Bureau

- Andrew Clark (United States of America)

INC Secretariat

- Jyoti Mathur-Filipp (Executive Secretary of the INC)

Agenda item 1 – Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.

- The meeting was convened as an informal meeting for informational purposes, with no decisions to be taken.
- The Bureau agreed to defer consideration of agenda item 2 on ‘Adoption of the report of the Bureau meeting of 15 September 2026’ to the next formal Bureau meeting.
- The Bureau agreed to consider agenda item 4 on ‘Preparations for informal in-person Heads of Delegation meeting’ ahead of inviting the Co-facilitators to join for the discussion on agenda item 3 on ‘Introduction and exchange with Co-facilitators’.
- The Bureau requested the Secretariat to capture the discussions in the form of a brief summary to ensure its prompt release in advance of the informal in-person Heads of Delegation meeting.

Agenda Item 4 - Preparations for the informal in-person Heads of Delegation meeting

(a) Final considerations for the informal in-person Heads of Delegation meeting

- The Chair noted that, since the first informal in-person Heads of Delegation meeting in Nairobi and the publication of the Aid to Negotiations on 8 August, Members have continued to engage in a constructive spirit, laying a strong foundation for discussions in Bangkok.
- The Chair noted that regional groups have had the opportunity to meet earlier in the day and will have the opportunity to meet throughout the week from 08:00 to 09:00. He noted that he has joined several of these meetings and appreciates the constructive exchanges taking place.
- The Chair noted that the opening *Samakkhi* session will begin at 09:00 on 27 September 2026. He encouraged regional groups to manage the timing of their meetings to ensure a prompt start to the opening session as well as throughout the week.
- The Chair noted that time has been allocated following the Review of Progress sessions on 28 and 29 September for Bureau meetings that could be convened on an as-needed basis. He requested the Bureau to inform the Secretariat of any need for Bureau meetings on these dates and noted that he would also remain in contact with the Bureau in this regard.
- The Chair proposed that any Bureau meeting convened on these dates be held as an informal meeting with no report produced by the Secretariat, and no decisions would be taken. During these meetings, the Co-facilitators would inform the Bureau of progress being made in the Clusters and the Bureau would have the opportunity to ask clarifying questions of the Co-facilitators and provide inputs as appropriate.
- The Chair also proposed that the only topic of discussion during any Bureau meetings to be held on 28 or 29 September would be the informal in-person Heads of Delegation meeting.
- The Chair further proposed that, following the updates from Co-facilitators in any Bureau meeting held on 28 or 29 September, the Bureau would be requested to provide feedback from the regional groups on how the in-person Heads of Delegation meeting is proceeding in order to help inform any adjustment of approaches for future meetings.
- The Bureau agreed to the approach set out by the Chair.

(b) Update on practical matters

- The Secretariat provided an update on practical and logistical arrangements in advance of the opening of the informal in-person Heads of Delegation meeting:
    - As of the time of reporting, 363 delegates representing 148 Members have collected their badges out of 478 delegates from 161 Members of the Committee registered for the meeting. It is expected that additional badges will be collected before the opening of the meeting.
    - The Secretariat has been informed of 19 funded delegates representing 17 Members who have cancelled their participation at the last minute due to various reasons which has had financial implications including potential financial losses for the Secretariat.
    - The Meeting Schedule will be available on the UNCC venue screens and the “Plastic Pollution Negotiations” mobile app. Meeting participants are encouraged to update or download and familiarize themselves with the mobile app. The mobile app also has information on the rooms and catering facilities under the Information icon.
    - Regarding seating arrangements in the ESCAP Hall, each Member will have one seat at the microphone and two additional seats immediately behind. There are additional overflow seats available at the back of the ESCAP Hall.
    - The Asia-Pacific States and Latin American and Caribbean States were requested to kindly conclude their morning regional meetings in a timely manner to allow the rooms to be prepared for the Clusters that will use the rooms following these Regional Meetings.

- The Secretariat circulated to focal points and registered participants on Monday, 21 September a notification on practical information for the in-person Heads of Delegation meeting. Along with the Information Note to Participants, this notification includes the most up-to-date logistical information for the in-person meeting.

Agenda Item 3 – Introduction and exchange with Co-facilitators

- The Chair welcomed back all Co-facilitators that had assisted during the informal meeting in Nairobi. He further extended a welcome to those new Co-facilitators that have agreed to support the Bangkok meeting due to the unavailability of other Co-facilitators.
- In addition to those Co-facilitators that had also been in attendance at the Nairobi Heads of Delegation meeting, the Chair welcomed the following Co-facilitators to the Bangkok Heads of Delegation meeting:
  - For **Cluster A**, Eyad Aljubran of Saudi Arabia (attending on behalf of Abdulaziz Albutti of Saudi Arabia) and Renée Yap of New Zealand (attending on behalf of Victoria Hallum of New Zealand); and
  - For **Cluster C**, Senimili Baleicakau of Fiji (attending on behalf of Sivendra Michael of Fiji).
- The Bureau welcomed all Co-facilitators and reiterated gratitude to all Co-facilitators for their efforts, support and dedication.
- The Co-facilitators were encouraged to consider how best to account for varying discussions that may arise on conceptual matters, reconsideration of past texts, or consideration of minor adjustments to language in the Aid to Negotiations. The Chair was also encouraged to provide support to the Co-facilitators in this regard.
- The Co-facilitators were encouraged to consider how the additional time allocated for the evenings of 28 and 29 September could be used to advance discussions in Clusters. It was suggested that Co-facilitators consider whether Cluster discussions could continue during this additional time or whether small-group discussions could be convened. The Chair noted that this time is available for any Cluster to use, provided the format chosen is suitable for the discussions in that Cluster.
- Bureau members emphasized that the Co-facilitators have the trust of the Bureau and encouraged the Co-facilitators to use the Guiding Questions as starting points to the discussions in Clusters. It was also emphasized that the role of the Co-facilitators was to assist the Chair in finding areas of convergence and that it will be necessary to engage beyond the Guiding Questions to reach this convergence.
- The Co-facilitators were encouraged to guide conversations in Clusters toward developing a targeted understanding of each provision of the Aid to Negotiations in order to provide the Chair with the insight needed to prepare the second iteration of the Aid to Negotiations.
- The Co-facilitators of Cluster D informed the Bureau that they had developed additional guiding questions that would be communicated to the meeting participants.
- The Chair emphasized the need to ensure consistency in approach across all Clusters.
- Co-facilitators requested guidance on engaging with proposals from Members during Cluster discussions, including in relation to projecting such proposals on the screen. The Chair referred to past guidance and noted that discussions in Clusters could not be prejudged. He encouraged Members to remain focused on the objective and purpose of the discussion toward finding common ground. He emphasized that it is not necessary for Members to prepare proposals, and that proposals prepared by Members do not need to be projected on the screen to be considered by the Cluster.
- The Chair reminded all present that the Co-facilitators have been invited to attend the Bureau meeting to be held on 30 September following conclusion of the Heads of Delegation meeting, as well as to any Bureau meetings convened during the week on an as-needed basis.

Agenda item 5 – Other matters

- No other matters were raised.