Second informal in-person meeting of Heads of Delegation to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution
27 – 30 September 2026, Bangkok

Additional Note by the Chair
18 September 2026

Introduction

As indicated in my Note of 20 August 2026 on the preparations for the upcoming second informal in-person meeting of Heads of Delegation (HODs) to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) on Plastic Pollution, to be held in Bangkok, the main objective of the meeting will be to exchange views and advance discussions using the "Aid to Negotiations" as a reference tool. My hope is that, through focused exchanges, we will be able to find possible solutions and landing zones for some of the aspects in our work.

I would first like to reiterate that the content of the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, remains entirely in the hands of Members, who have full discretion to present ideas and raise topics as they deem appropriate.

Delivering on our mandate established by UNEA resolution 5/14 will require committed and sustained effort from all Members. I would like to reaffirm what I said when I assumed my role as Chair at INC-5.3, that flexibility and pragmatism will be major elements to enable us to get closer to our shared goal.

Flexibility, as in any other multilateral negotiation, implies that delegations will need to revisit positions, explore new avenues, and advance proposals that may respond to the concerns and interests that are being raised by others. I have seen that already happening, and I am grateful for this. I encourage everyone to continue working together with flexibility and openness toward finding a common way forward.

Pragmatism is equally important and a critical approach to understanding what practical steps we can take at this stage as we are building a durable and future-proof instrument. We might not be able to find immediate solutions to all challenges, but we can lay the groundwork for a global platform that can enable crucial and meaningful outcomes, in line with our mandate, as soon as we start implementing it.

With this in mind, I invite everyone to focus on our end goal, and on the vision of a world free from plastic pollution.

Working together in Bangkok

The methodology and organization of work of the meeting in Bangkok will follow a very similar approach to that of our first informal in-person HODs meeting in Nairobi.

In order to make progress at the meeting, I have indicated that we need to follow modes of work that, as we prepare for INC-5.4, are appropriate to this stage of our process and conducive to the development of the international legally binding instrument.

To achieve this, I invite Members to continue working to find solutions toward convergence during the Cluster discussions. I will continue to monitor these exchanges, and, with the support of the Co-facilitators and the Secretariat, I will try to identify possible textual solutions emerging from our discussions in Bangkok that could help refine and strengthen the Aid to Negotiations in its next iteration.

The work of the Clusters will follow the structure of the Aid to Negotiations, with the intention of strengthening and refining the text. While there will be no live editing of text during our meeting, the Secretariat, in coordination with the Co-facilitators, will ensure that the discussions taking place in each Cluster are duly captured for my consideration. This will, in turn, inform the development of the second iteration of the Aid to Negotiations in a manner reflective of the discussions that take place in each Cluster.

I will provide guidance to Co-facilitators to actively seek possible convergences when interventions reveal areas of similarity. In this regard, the guiding questions circulated to Members on 9 September will serve as thought-starters for the discussions in the Clusters. The Co-facilitators may then continue to pose questions, in consultation with me as Chair, to Members participating in each of the Clusters to assess whether there are potential areas of convergence and possible landing zones for any issues. The aim of each Cluster is to have the opportunity to cover all of the assigned items.

Members will also have the opportunity to present views and engage on all topics in the Clusters, and to react to relevant provisions of the Aid to Negotiations. Where useful to facilitate mutual understanding, the relevant provision may be projected on the screen. Such projection will be for reference only and will not involve live editing. Although consensus cannot be rushed, especially on the most divergent topics, at the same time, we need to make sure that we seize any opportunity to identify areas of possible progress.

Co-facilitators could also task open-ended groups of Members to work on specific topics, and report back to the Cluster on potential solutions, if the dynamics of the exchanges allow it.

Co-facilitators will also have the power to allow the projection of brief visual aids to facilitate the explanation of any possible bridging proposal, following the approach taken during the meeting in Nairobi. Co-facilitators may project such visual aids on the screen as appropriate, provided that it would be conducive to discussions in the room and that such proposals could help move toward consensus rather than expanding any text.

Let me also clarify that, as was the case in Nairobi, I will not call for submissions during the meeting in Bangkok. This is to make sure that we prioritize the direct exchanges among Members in the work in Clusters.

Written views from Observers ahead of Bangkok

As you may be aware, I have been reflecting on ways to facilitate the engagement of observer organizations and have put forward a number of ideas in this regard. Reflecting suggestions made by the Observer community, accredited observer organizations have been invited to provide their written views on the guiding questions circulated to Members in advance of this informal in-person HODs meeting in Bangkok.

These written views will be made available on the INC website, and I encourage Members to consult them as they prepare for this meeting.

While not intended to act as a substitute for a broader discussion on Observer participation, I believe this initiative, as suggested by observer organizations, may provide a valuable opportunity for accredited observer organizations to share their perspectives with Members of the Committee on topics to be discussed at this meeting.

Beyond Bangkok

As I indicated in my Note of 20 August and previous communications, the discussions in Bangkok will support my preparation of the second iteration of the Aid to Negotiations. In preparing it, my intention is to identify the progress achieved by the conclusion of our time in Bangkok. To this end, I plan to consider all discussions from Nairobi and Bangkok and assess opportunities to refine the Aid to Negotiations, guided by Members' positions and proposals.

I would like to clarify that this does not mean that I will reflect every single position and the many possible nuances that could be presented. As this would essentially result in expanding the document, I am strongly of the view that this should be avoided.

On the contrary, my intention is to identify areas of firm ground where convergence can be found, so that this convergence can be reflected in the second iteration of the Aid to Negotiations in a balanced manner. I hope that this can serve as an incentive for delegations to try to come closer together.

It is important to recall that there will be no additional in-person meeting before 22 December 2026, by which time the second iteration of the Aid to Negotiations will have been sent for editing and translation into the six official languages of the United Nations.

As announced at the closing of the Nairobi meeting, a third informal in-person meeting has been scheduled to take place during the period of 25 January to 2 February 2027. Arrangements for this meeting are still being finalized, and further details will be communicated in due course.

The nature and format of the meeting in late January will be informed by the upcoming discussions and progress made in Bangkok. Its objective will be to build on the progress made in Bangkok, and to engage with the version of the Aid to Negotiations that will have been sent for editing and translation by 22 December. Although there will be no further

iteration of the Aid to Negotiations produced after 22 December, I am sure that this meeting in January will offer a great opportunity to advance our understanding of the final outcome, in a balanced and comprehensive manner, in light of our mandate.

Conclusion

Throughout these last few months, I have highlighted the principles of inclusivity, transparency and predictability. Inclusivity reflects the fact that we cannot leave anyone behind, and that we must make sure that all voices are heard with respect and solidarity, as all proposals are duly considered.

Transparency implies that we need to be clear in our dialogue with each other and make sure that we promote direct communication among Members, based on good faith.

Finally, predictability is relevant throughout the process, not only in designing the Roadmap and implementing it according to plan, but also in enabling all Members to anticipate future challenges and act accordingly in considering the tasks that lie ahead of us.

I want to thank everyone and commend you for the positive exchanges which I have witnessed and which are fully in line with these three principles. I feel supported by all Members in this approach, and this gives me additional encouragement to continue moving forward on this basis. I look forward to seeing you all in Bangkok and resuming our work, with the clear determination to fulfil our mandate.