

Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

Budget overview for the period 2025

Note by the Executive Secretary

4 February 2026

1. The present note provides a brief overview of the resources required for the implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolution 5/14 entitled “End plastic pollution: Towards an international legally binding instrument”, with specific focus on the operative paragraphs that make a direct request to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in support of the implementation of the mandate.
2. It should be noted that activities related to the implementation of the mandate of UNEA resolution 5/14 are funded entirely through voluntary contributions from donors. These voluntary contributions provide the necessary support for, inter alia, the following activities:
 - a. The organization and convening of the sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, as well as other meetings as requested by the Committee.
 - b. Providing the necessary support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to allow for their effective participation in the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee.
 - c. Ensuring the necessary support by the Secretariat to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee.
3. In 2025, two donors’ meetings were held with the support of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, on 24 February 2025 and on 26 September 2025, respectively. The [information](#) shared with donors has been made publicly available on the [INC website](#).
4. This document has not been formally edited.

I. Budget Overview

The INC budget is based on the following parameters:

1. Secretariat Requirements:
 - a. *Staff & Personnel*: As of the end of 2025, the Secretariat comprised 9 Professional staff positions, 1 Junior Professional Officer, 3 General Service staff positions, and 1 national UN volunteer. This composition may be subject to revision according to the needs resulting from decisions that may be taken by the Committee during its sessions.

- b. *Consultants*: In addition to the regular staff position, the Secretariat engaged 1 full-time consultant. The number and engagement of consultants may be adjusted in accordance with the needs resulting from decisions that may be taken by the Committee during its sessions.
- c. *Operational costs*: Estimated expenses cover office operational costs such as rent, utilities, and related expenses.
- d. *Staff travel*: the budget provides for a limited number of trips per year to attend international meetings where in-person participation is necessary, as well as for the Secretariat team members to meet in preparation for INC sessions.
- e. *Other*: The budget also covered unforeseen and miscellaneous expenses, such as costs related to the maintenance and development of the INC website, costs associated with online meetings' platforms, travel for eligible INC Bureau members for in-person meetings of the Bureau and travel for the INC Chair for outreach purposes.

2. INC sessions, meetings & Diplomatic Conference:

- a. *The second part of the fifth session of the INC (INC-5.2)*: was held from 5 to 15 August 2025 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. This session was preceded by regional consultations on 4 August 2025. This resumed session was convened following the adjournment of the first part of the fifth session of the INC (INC-5.1) in Busan, Republic of Korea on 1 December 2024.
- b. *The third part of the fifth session of the INC (INC-5.3)*: scheduled to take place on 7 February 2026 at the Geneva International Conference Centre (CICG) in Geneva, Switzerland. The one-day resumed session will be convened for organizational and administrative purposes, with the focus on the election of officers. Some of the costs for organizing the resumed session were already incurred in 2025.
- c. *One diplomatic conference of plenipotentiaries*: the date and venue of which are yet to be decided. The diplomatic conference of plenipotentiaries is to be convened upon completion of negotiations by the INC, for the purpose of adopting the instrument and opening it for signature. Budgetary estimates are maintained on an annual basis until the conference takes place.
- d. *Regarding the format of the INC sessions*: the first session of the INC agreed that subsequent sessions would be held in person. The INC plenary meetings are provided with interpretation in the six official languages of the United Nations (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish). The duration of each session will be determined by the Committee in consultation with the Secretariat. As per the proposed approach to the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, indicated in Appendix 1 of the report of the Open-ended Working Group, held from 30 May to 1 June 2022, in Dakar, the length of the meetings can be adjusted from the 5 days general length as the INC process develops. INC-5.2 in 2025 was held for a duration of 10 days. Each INC session is generally preceded by 1 day for regional consultations.
- e. *Travel for in-person participants*: In line with paragraph 7 of UNEA resolution 5/14, the Secretariat continued to provide travel support for delegates from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to facilitate their effective participation in the work of the INC. Travel support consists of flights, daily subsistence allowance (DSA) and terminal expenses, in accordance with the applicable UN rules. Since INC-2, the INC Secretariat has provided travel support for up to two delegates per eligible country for INC sessions. The Secretariat has also provided travel support for two delegates per eligible country to attend the informal in-person meeting of Heads of Delegation held from 30 June to 2 July 2025 at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON), Kenya, and for one delegate per eligible country to attend

the stand-alone regional consultations held during June and July 2025 across four of the five UN regions. For INC-5.2, the Secretariat provided travel support as follows: travel support was offered for two delegates per eligible country and 20 observers from non-governmental organizations for the full duration of INC-5.2. On an exceptional basis, additional funding was made available to support the attendance of a high-level representative, or an alternative representative, for up to four days.

- f. *Travel of UN Staff for INC session:* covered approximately 60 UN personnel to support the second part of the fifth session of the INC (INC-5.2) in August 2025. This includes personnel providing direct support in a wide range of areas such as badging and on-site participant support, DSA disbursement, documentation and reporting, translation, interpretation, logistical support and operational requirements, security, technical support to contact groups and informal consultations. This includes personnel from the UN Office at Nairobi, UNEP divisions, and staff from other Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs), including Geneva-based, that support the INC Secretariat during the INC sessions.
- g. *Venue for the INC session:* rental of premises is the responsibility of the host country and, therefore, generally, not included in the Secretariat budget.
- h. *Documentation and translation:* Includes costs related to the preparation, editing and translation of working documents in the six official languages of the United Nations for pre-session, in-session, and post-session use. It also includes editing and report writing during INC sessions.
- i. *Conference Support:* This includes services related to the setting up and servicing of the meeting, including but not limited to communication, audio visual requirements, medical, security, IT, UN WebTV, hybrid connections (when applicable) and other costs not covered directly by the Host Country.
- j. *Regional Consultations:* INC sessions are preceded by back-to-back regional consultations, typically lasting one day. Prior to each INC session, stand-alone regional consultations are held by four of the five UN regional groups. The duration of these consultations varies between one and three days. For stand-alone consultations, venue and conference service costs, as well as staff travel costs, are covered by the INC Secretariat, unless a Member of the Committee offers to host. Prior to INC-5.2, standalone regional consultations took place as follows:
 - Group of Asia Pacific States from 9 to 11 June 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand.
 - Group of Latin American and Caribbean States from 3 to 5 June 2025 in Panama City, Panama.
 - Group of African States from 3 to 5 July 2025 in Nairobi, Kenya.
 - Group of Eastern European States on 3 August 2025 in Geneva, Switzerland.

II. Actual Expenditure by the INC Secretariat

As of 31 December 2025, the expenses incurred by the Secretariat stand at approximately 31.6 million US dollars. This figure includes the actual expenses for the Financial Year 2022, 2023 and 2024, and the tentative figures for 2025. The expenses include staff salaries, travel, rent, utilities and meeting costs, including travel for funded participants.

Please consult the [budget update for the INC](#) process for more information.

III. Status of contributions to the INC

The status of contributions to the INC process is regularly updated and made available online here: [status of contributions to the INC process.](#)