

**Informal in-person meeting of Heads of Delegation to the Intergovernmental
Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution
30 June – 3 July 2026**

*Additional Note by the Chair
16 June 2026*

As we are approaching our informal in-person meeting of Heads of Delegation to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) on Plastic Pollution from 30 June to 3 July in Nairobi, I would like to share some reflections on the progress we have achieved so far and on the challenges that lie ahead. I am inspired and reassured by the many ideas and contributions that I have heard from many of you, for which I am grateful.

This additional note complements my first letter of [19 March 2026](#), and represents my attempt at sharing some of these ideas and at bringing everyone together in one single conversation. Additionally, I would like to provide a more refined view of the meeting in Nairobi, and how we can make the most of it. I hope that this can help us to continue listening to each other, with the intention of finding common ground and moving closer to a successful outcome.

Introduction: Our common challenge

Our attempts at effectively addressing plastic pollution happen against a backdrop of many inter-related processes such as technology development, scientific advancement, social behavior and economic interactions. This complex reality is at the root of the challenge we face, as we build together a collective, coherent, ambitious and adequate response to the universal problem posed by plastic pollution.

At this stage, it is important to acknowledge that we have made significant progress so far, even if our work is still far from being completed. We have all worked diligently at developing formulations, textual proposals and possible bridging ideas. Although these attempts have not always been successful, we understand each other better, and we have achieved a thorough appreciation of the main positions and concerns throughout the process to date.

We should also remind ourselves about the urgency that spurs this process. Our deliberations are followed with great interest across the world. We can greatly benefit communities and vast sectors in our societies. It is our duty to continue trying to achieve a meaningful outcome, as plastic pollution will only increase in the future unless we work together on our mandate.

In this line of thinking, we need to assume that addressing the complex challenge of plastic pollution will not happen overnight. Therefore, finding solutions will require a long-term commitment and collective effort, assuming that there are no easy fixes. On the contrary, we should aim at durable options, including those with medium- to long-term horizons.

The instrument we are developing together can represent an historic achievement as the starting point of a new legal framework devised with the specific purpose of effectively addressing plastic pollution. This international legally binding instrument will take us to a further stage of our work, related to the implementation of concrete actions at the national and global levels, encompassing everything we can do together, in coordination with other

relevant international legal regimes. It should set the foundations for meaningful lines of collaboration and workstreams that will take us closer to a world free of plastic pollution.

The meeting in Nairobi

In my previous Note for this meeting, circulated on [2 June 2026](#), I identified specific objectives for this meeting. As a complement to this, I would like to indicate that my expectation is that, in Nairobi, we achieve two concrete goals.

Goal 1: Comprehensive review of our progress

On the one hand, we should be able to revisit the different components of the instrument in a comprehensive manner. Ten months have passed since the last time we met in-person for substantive discussions. This meeting is an opportunity to bring ourselves back on track to ensure we are all on the same page.

This comprehensive review of progress will be the basis for the development, under my own authority, of an informal reference document or “Aid to Negotiations”. As I already mentioned in my [second letter](#), I do not intend to include in this document new ideas or proposals that have not been appropriately considered by Members, so it remains a “no-surprises” document.

Goal 2: New ideas and proposals

On the other hand, this does not mean that discussions in Nairobi will not include new ideas or proposals. Not at all. In fact, the meeting in Nairobi could be an invaluable opportunity to share possible solutions. This is the second purpose of the meeting. New ideas and proposals can be the basis for our future progress, which Members can consider in the following weeks and months. I invite you all to come to Nairobi well prepared for this, including looking beyond traditional positions, which at this stage are well-known as they have been expressed many times. In fact, I strongly encourage everyone to avoid the reiteration of national positions, unless it is in the context of introducing new ideas or to react constructively to specific topics.

These two goals will also produce two different outcomes respectively. As indicated, the first goal will involve a comprehensive review of our progress and will be the basis for the informal reference document.

The second goal will involve exploring new ideas and proposals, and will be covered in a Summary Note, which I will prepare under my responsibility, with the support of the Secretariat and in consultation with the Co-facilitators of the meeting.

Co-facilitators will operate with this understanding and approach, under my guidance and coordination, with the intention of motivating useful and interactive discussions.

Mode of work

As explained in my previous [Note](#) for this meeting, our work in Nairobi will include both joint meetings and Cluster meetings, which will comprise four groups of topics. These Clusters

seek to follow the methodology of the “four Cs” expressed in my third letter of [16 April 2026](#).¹

Cluster A. This Cluster looks into how individual Parties to the instrument can prepare their National Plans, and report on their implementation. This will be coupled with provisions on Implementation and Compliance, bearing in mind that many Members have favored systems that are facilitative and non-punitive. The information shared by Members as they communicate their National Plans and reporting documents will be key to understanding the role of Effectiveness Evaluation of the instrument. This flow of information and learning process to improve effectiveness could point towards an iterative exercise to move closer to the achievement of the objective of the instrument.

Cluster B. This group of topics aims at the process of addressing plastic pollution, touching upon key moments and processes that determine its occurrence, without prejudice to the understanding of the concept of “full life cycle”. This Cluster comprises the analysis of Releases and Leakages, as well as the immediate and palpable reality which is the accumulated pollution we already have in the environment. It looks also into the question of what we can do to prevent such pollution, including through specific actions with plastic products that may become pollution or contribute to plastic pollution. Also, special attention is provided to Waste Management Systems and Product Design. Members may consider exploring how to identify opportunities of action at the global level, as well as areas which might be based on national prerogatives.

Cluster C. As in other international agreements, Means of Implementation represents a strategic element for the entire instrument, comprising provisions related to Finance, Capacity Building, Technical Assistance and Technology Transfer, including International Cooperation. In this Cluster, Members may benefit greatly from identifying those elements with general consensus, including on the structure of a future Financial Mechanism, its main characteristics and the actions that the Conference of the Parties should take in order to make it operational, which applies also to Capacity Building and Technology Transfer.

Cluster D. This Cluster will aim at covering other elements that may be of a cross-cutting nature, including Preamble, Objective and Principles and Approaches. These are inter-related issues, and Members might like to continue the constructive discussions held so far on how to better synchronize them and potentially streamline them as a package. This Cluster also includes issues that many Members have highlighted as important for the implementation of the instrument, such as Just Transition and Health, as well as other elements of this nature that might be of particular interest to Members. I propose that we also include Public Information and Awareness under this Cluster, as it is closely related to how Parties of the future instrument engage their societies and inform populations about the urgency presented by plastic pollution.

Each one of the Clusters will provide an opportunity for structured discussions, with two Co-facilitators that I have selected based on regional balance as well as their multilateral expertise and in their capacity as senior members of their respective delegations. I am grateful for their generosity in dedicating their time and effort and I ask everyone to work closely with them in a productive manner.

¹ The 4Cs are referenced in the Chair’s third letter published on 16 April 2026 and outlined as follows: ‘Conceptual discussions’; ‘Clarity in the text’; ‘Connections between parts of the instrument’; and ‘Comprehensive view of the instrument’.

Guiding questions: Clusters will work in a problem-solving spirit, with guiding questions that will be made available to all Members in a timely manner in advance of the in-person Heads of Delegation meeting.

Elements not included at this time: There will be some topics that will not be included in the current Clusters. I believe that some topics still require more maturity given their political nature or because Members have not yet found sufficient common ground. In this category are the discussion on Scope and the Decision-making mechanisms.

Additionally, I have not included in the Clusters some elements where the Committee has achieved significant progress, particularly during INC-5.2, such as the final provisions, that might not need to be rediscussed at this stage.

Addressing sequencing of elements: Some Members have made the point that we might need to reconsider the sequence of the elements of the instrument. I have heard that maybe a different approach than the sequence set out in past texts could be helpful. In my understanding, this idea does not leave any of the elements out, but it is only a reordering of the current elements. In this respect, during our meeting in Nairobi, I intend to include this issue in the consultations that I will conduct, to assess if this proposal can be useful to Members, including as part of the work for the development of an informal reference document.

As indicated, I intend to have consultations separately with all groups and Members of the Committee on these three topics: Scope, Decision-making and arrangement of elements in the text.

Similarly, we might need to postpone the discussion on Definitions as it can be difficult to achieve concrete breakthroughs until we have a further conceptual understanding of other issues.

Co-facilitators

I would like to take this opportunity to communicate to Members the names of the Co-facilitators team, who will be assisting me.

Cluster A	Eyad Jubran (Saudi Arabia) and Victoria Hallum (New Zealand)
Cluster B	Dinara Azhigaliyeva (Kazakhstan) and Marcelo Cousillas (Uruguay)
Cluster C	Sivendra Michael (Fiji) and Elfriede More (Austria)
Cluster D	Kathryn Youel Page (United States) and Naomi Karekaho (Uganda)

I am very grateful to all of them for generously giving their time to contribute to the success of the process. In this regard, I am in close coordination with them, providing direction and receiving their feedback, including on jointly developing guiding questions on each of the Clusters. These guiding questions will be communicated as a separate document in advance of the meeting.

In many consultations that I have had with Members, as well as in my previous communications, I have made the point that in order to make progress in our work, we need to apply modes of work that are appropriate for the moment we are in. My expectation is that we take this as an opportunity to explore solutions and imagine how all of these topics will look like in the final text.

In order to do this, I have asked Co-facilitators to avoid working on live text editing. This methodology may have proven useful in the past, but I am firmly convinced that it might not be the best approach for this meeting. One reason for this is that it would not be clear which document to use, as we don't have one single reference text for our discussions. This would lead to extensive procedural discussions which we must avoid. Additionally, focusing our attention on editing textual proposals could derail our efforts to better understand each other, and prevent us from getting closer to possible solutions.

I invite all Members to work closely with Co-facilitators and to engage in productive exchanges to deliver on the outcomes we need.

Together in unity

The meeting in Nairobi is an important opportunity to move forward, increase our ability to understand each other and hopefully start delineating possible solutions and landing zones for our negotiations.

As I indicated at the beginning of this additional note, the task of the INC is complex and challenging, but feasible and urgently needed. The universal nature of plastic pollution shows us that individual efforts of governments are important steps but will fall short of what we really need to advance towards a comprehensive approach and that provide a firm vision, including in the long-term.

With this in mind, I would like to invite everyone to work under the concepts of *Pamoja* (togetherness) and *Umoja* (unity) that I encouraged in my previous [Note](#) for this meeting. Plastic pollution is a shared challenge that we need to tackle together, although different countries will have a diverse range of approaches, priorities and departure points. Unity means also acknowledging this diversity as we walk together towards a common goal.

I invite all Members to bring your ideas to Nairobi and continue working to build a collective response that allows us to deliver a successful outcome.