Intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.
Bureau meeting
Sunday, 03 August 2025
Palais des Nations, Geneva

SUMMARY AND ACTION POINTS INC BUREAU MEETING 03 AUGUST 2025

Note by the Secretariat

1. The meeting was attended by the following members:

   INC Chair: Mr. Luis Vayas Valdivieso (Ecuador);

   African States: Mr. Ndiaye Cheikh Sylla (Senegal); Ms. Juliet Kabera (Rwanda);

   Asia-Pacific States: Mr. Hiroshi Ono (Japan); Mr. Mohammed Albarrak (Saudi Arabia);

   Eastern European States: Mr. Harry Liiv (Estonia); Ms. Irma Gurguliani (Georgia);

   Latin American and Caribbean States: Mr. Gustavo Meza-Cuadra Velasquez (Peru);

   Small-Island Developing States: Ms. Asha Challenger (Antigua and Barbuda);

   Western European and Other States: Ms. Johanna Lissinger-Peitz (Sweden), Ms. Larke Williams (United States of America).

2. The Bureau was joined by Executive Director of United Nations Environment Programme, Ms. Inger Andersen, for the first part of the meeting.

3. The INC Secretariat was represented by the Executive Secretary of the INC, Ms. Jyoti Mathur-Filipp.

4. In attendance for agenda item 3(a) was Mr Felix Wertli, representative of the Government of Switzerland.

5. In attendance for agenda item 3(b) were the Co-Chairs and nominated Co-Chairs of INC-5 Contact groups.

6. The INC Chair opened the meeting by welcoming the Bureau, expressing his optimism for the session ahead and underlining the need to finalize successfully by August 14. He highlighted that the world is counting on the INC to deliver on this historical opportunity to culminate with an agreed text that will effectively combat plastic pollution. Acknowledging the important work undertaken in a constructive spirit by Members during the intersessional period, he noted that, although differences remained on some issues, the work carried out throughout the past three years since the adoption of UNEA Resolution 5/14 had laid the groundwork for reaping the harvest of this hard work at the resumed session. The Chair reiterated the need for starting well and moving at good speed, emphasizing the importance of the first four days of the session. He

thanked the Bureau for its continued engagement. He thanked and welcomed the representative from the Government of Switzerland, as well as the Executive Director of UNEP.

7. The Executive Director of UNEP provided welcoming remarks noting that the time had come to find solutions. She emphasized the need for open, inclusive, and transparent dialogue, and highlighted the importance of setting clear priorities to enable efficient and results-oriented negotiations. She also underlined the need for transparency, predictability, and flexibility in managing the session's workflow, while reaffirming UNEP's and the Secretariat's full support to the Bureau and the Committee as a whole. She concluded with the reminder that the goal is to finish by 14 August 2025 with an agreement for the ages that is impactful, lasting, and transformative.

8. The Bureau considered and adopted the provisional agenda for the meeting.

9. The Bureau considered and approved the summary and action points from its meeting held on 22 July 2025.

10. The representative of the Government of Switzerland provided the Bureau with updates on the preparations for INC-5.2, welcoming the Bureau to Geneva for this important and final phase of negotiations. He noted that the United Nations Office in Geneva have been working hard to accommodate all the logistical needs of the session. He provided a brief update on practical arrangements and informed the Bureau that Switzerland arranged site visits for high-level representatives to showcase local solutions addressing the plastics challenge, as well as a roundtable discussion on this topic in the second week of the session.

11. The Executive Secretary provided a logistical update on preparations for INC-5.2. As of the date of reporting, the number of registered participants totalled 3694 approved registrations. This included:

    - 1694 delegates from 180 Members of the Committee.

    - 1832 observers from 583 NGOs;

    - 40 observers from 17 intergovernmental organizations;

    - 90 observers from 18 UN entities; and

    - 315 Media organizations.

12. Regarding logistics during INC-5.2, the Executive Secretary informed the Bureau that as per general practice, the provisional list of participants will be circulated on the first day of the session via e-mail notification. Regarding seating in plenary, each Member of the Committee will be allocated four seats, two at the tables and two directly behind. Observer seating will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, with overflow rooms streaming proceedings in English and French.

13. In the Contact Groups, each Member will be assigned one microphone seat with one or two seats behind, subject to the room layout. Thanks to the support of the Government of Switzerland, electricity outlets have been installed in one of the Contact Group rooms, resolving issues discussed at the previous Bureau meeting. Approximately 60 observer seats will be available on a first-come, first served basis in each room, and overflow rooms will be provided to accommodate additional participants. Daily updates will be available via the INC app, with all essential details also outlined in the Information Note for Participants.

14. At the invitation of the Bureau, the Co-Chairs and nominated Co-Chairs of INC-5.2 joined the meeting for the discussion on agenda item 3(c). Under this sub-item, the Chair expressed sincere appreciation for the Co-Chairs' continued dedication and hard work and conveyed full confidence that their guidance of discussions will be instrumental to the successful conclusion of negotiations. He also underlined the shared goal of producing text, as clean as possible with collective ownership by Thursday, 14 August 2025. He referred to the importance of focusing on the introduction of bridging proposals developed in consultation with a broad range of Members and the efficient utilization of time, including through informal settings, to explore solutions that generate the broadest possible alignment. Regarding the flow of work, the Chair informed the Bureau that Contact Groups will be encouraged to publish interim outcomes as they become available, promoting transparency and keeping all Members informed.

15. The organization of work, both in formal and informal settings, was discussed, including how best to facilitate continuous progress within the Contact Groups, particularly regarding the development of possible text proposals. It was recalled that the Chair's text of 1 December will serve as the starting point for discussions in the Contact Groups.

16. The Co-Chairs addressed cross-cutting issues, emphasizing the importance of tracking interlinkages and dependencies, as well as coordinating across groups, including through possible joint consultations, if needed. Throughout the discussion, emphasis was placed on ensuring transparency and fostering a sense of collective ownership over the evolving text.

    The Chair noted ongoing efforts to harmonize the work across the different Contact Groups, while at the same time acknowledging that flexibility was needed to accommodate different approaches in the groups and within the groups on different issues. In this regard, the Chair re-emphasized the essential role of Co-Chairs in facilitating rapid and concrete progress.

17. The Bureau discussed the importance of moving through the opening plenary swiftly to allow for the work in the Contact Groups to commence. The Chair reiterated his encouragement to delegations, including regional groups, to submit their statements in writing through the portal in lieu of oral statements. Given limited opportunities for observers to make interventions in the formal process, 30 minutes will be allocated in plenary for observer statements..

18. With regard to the proposed schedule published on the INC-5.2 website on 18 July 2025 building on the Chair's Scenario Note, the Bureau discussed the scheduling of the first days of the session. A request was raised from one region to avoid parallel meetings of Contact Groups 1 and 3, noting that a related letter was also transmitted to the Chair and the Secretariat in reference to the scheduling of breakout groups for the informal in-person Heads of Delegation meeting held in Nairobi. The Chair acknowledged the concerns raised and noted that the proposed schedule aims to balance varied inputs, following extensive consultations with Members and regional groups. While acknowledging that no schedule can be perfect, the current version posted online reflects the best available compromise. He therefore sought the flexibility of the regions to proceed on the basis of the proposed schedule for the first two days of the session on the understanding that the concerns regarding parallel meetings of Contact Groups 1 and 3 would be addressed in the schedule from day 3 onwards.

19. The Secretariat will arrange the daily schedule taking into account the inputs from the Co-Chairs and comments from the Bureau and will make it available on the website and through the app in the evening of the preceding day.

20. The Bureau indicated that it may invite the Co-Chairs to its meetings, as needed.

21. The Chair informed that the next Bureau meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, 05 August, from 14:30 – 15:00 and that subsequent meetings are scheduled daily from 18:30 to 19:30 in Room Concordia 1 of the Palais des Nations in Geneva.