

Intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment

Bureau meeting

Friday, 6 February 2026

16:30- 18:30 EAT

Online and in-person

DRAFT SUMMARY

INC BUREAU MEETING 6 FEBRUARY 2026

Note by the Secretariat

Attendance

Bureau Members

- Ndiaye Cheikh Sylla (Senegal)
- Hiroshi Ono (Japan)
- Mohammed Albarrak (Saudi Arabia) – online
- Harry Liiv (Estonia)
- Irma Gurguliani (Georgia)
- Gustavo Meza-Cuadra Velasquez (Peru)
- Asha Challenger (Antigua and Barbuda) – online
- Larke Williams (United States of America)

Observers

- Julio Cordano (Chile)

INC Secretariat

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

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

- The agenda was adopted with no comments or revisions

Agenda Item 2 - Adoption of the reports of the Bureau meetings of 20 and 28 January 2026

- The reports were adopted with no comments or revisions

Agenda Item 3 - Preparations for INC-5.3

(a) Order of proceedings for INC-5.3

- The Vice-Chair Presiding provided an anticipated run-of-show for INC-5.3 taking into account the points of view of all regional groups and Bureau members, as well as draft rules of procedure and United Nations practice:
 - **Agenda Item 1 - Opening of the meeting**
 - The intention is to move as swiftly as possible to the agenda item on election of officers.
 - Opening remarks of the Vice-Chair Presiding and Executive Secretary will be kept brief.
 - In line with the annotated agenda, agreements in the Bureau, and as presented in the Scenario Note, the Committee will be informed that several agenda items will not be taken up, specifically:
 - *Agenda Item 3 – Organizational Matters; and*
 - *Agenda Item 4 – Preparation of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.*
 - *Agenda Item 5 – Other Matters*: No other matters are expected to be raised under this item.
 - In order to swiftly proceed to the agenda item on election of officers, the Vice-Chair Presiding will propose to not take opening statements from Members, groups of Members or Observers, as noted in the Scenario Note.
 - As the Committee remains in an opening session, the Committee will continue to use the agenda as adopted at INC-5.1.
 - The Committee will continue to apply the draft rules of procedure to its work on a provisional basis, with the exception of the bracketed text in Rule 37, paragraph 1.
 - The Secretariat will provide brief logistical remarks.
 - The Committee will move to the agenda item on election of officers.
 - **Agenda Item 2 – Election of officers**
 - Reflecting the common understanding of the Bureau at its 28 January 2026 meeting, the Committee will begin with election of the Chair, followed by elections for Vice-Chair vacancies.
 - There is a clear preference for elections by acclamation.
 - However, if there is more than one candidate for Chair at INC-5.3, the draft rules of procedure require that the Committee proceeds to elections by secret ballot.
 - Should elections by secret ballot be required, the candidates for Chair will be read out to the Committee.
 - The Secretariat will be invited to read the balloting procedure, which will be the same balloting procedure as read out at INC-2.
 - The procedures set out in rules 41, 45 and 46 of the draft rules of procedure will guide the secret ballot.
 - If there are more than two candidates running for a single position:
 - in the first round of ballots, one of the candidates obtains a majority of votes of those present and voting, he or she is the successful candidate. This means that no second round of balloting would be required.
 - after the first round of ballots, none of the candidates obtain the required majority, a second ballot must be held. The second ballot will only include the two candidates that received the largest number of votes in the first round.
 - The candidate that receives the required majority of votes is the successful candidate.

- Certain procedural matters would need to be addressed, depending on the successful candidate.
 - If Mr. Cheikh Sylla (Senegal) is the successful candidate, he would have to resign as Vice-Chair before he can be declared as Chair as no one can hold the position of Vice-Chair and Chair simultaneously.
 - If Mr. Julio Cordano (Chile) is the successful candidate, he could assume the role of Chair with no further steps required as his election would align with the regional group representation requirements set out in rule 9 paragraph 2 of the draft rules of procedure.
 - If Ms. Nazia Zaib Ali (Pakistan) is the successful candidate, one of the two current Vice-Chairs representing the APG region would need to resign before she can be declared Chair. This is necessary to align with the regional group representation requirements set out in rule 9 paragraph 2 of the draft rules of procedure.
- Once the Chair is elected, he or she would preside over the remainder of the agenda item on election of officers.
- Following election of the Chair, the Committee will turn to the election of Vice-Chairs.
- If Mr. Julio Cordano is elected as Chair, the only vacancy on the Bureau would be for the Vice-Chair representing the small island developing States (SIDS). Otherwise, elections would need to be held for both the SIDS representative and the representative of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC).
- As there is currently only one candidate per position, elections will proceed by way of acclamation for both positions.
- Following election of all officer positions on the Bureau, the Committee must designate a Rapporteur.
- The Vice-Chair Presiding emphasized the need to leave Geneva with a Chair of the Committee.
- APG Bureau members informed the Bureau that, in the event the candidate from the regional group is the successful candidate for Chair, Mr. Hiroshi Ono (Japan) would resign from his position as Vice-Chair of the Committee.
- Bureau members were informed that constituencies continue to work toward elections by acclamation as a priority. However, no common solution has been found as yet. Members will continue consultations with a view to arriving to an agreement.
- No comments were received from the Bureau on the proposed run-of-show.

(b) Update on practical arrangements

- The Executive Secretary provided an update on logistics and other preparations for INC-5.3.
- On-site registration is not possible. However, the Secretariat can still accommodate late registrations from representatives from Members of the Committee, but those Members would still need to register online via Indico and submit a Note Verbale. Delegations can contact the Secretariat at any time to facilitate this process. Please note that registration for Observers is no longer possible for any category and no exception will be made.
- Bureau members were reminded of the email notification containing practical details on registration, badging and DSA disbursement which was circulated on Thursday 5 February and is available on the INC website under 'Notifications'.
- Bureau members were reminded of venue and seating arrangements. Members of the Committee will be allocated two seats in the plenary room, while duly registered Observers will be allocated seating on a first-come, first-served basis. An overflow room will be available to accommodate all approved participants.
- The Secretariat received written notification from the European Union that in the event of a vote by secret ballot, each of its Member States would exercise the individual right to

- vote. In this event, the Secretariat would skip the seat of the European Union when distributing the ballots, as undertaken for the election of officers at INC-2.
- No comments were received from the Bureau on the practical arrangements.

Agenda item 4 – Other matters

- As Ms. Asha Challenger resigned from her role as Vice-Chair and Rapporteur on 6 February 2026, the Bureau unanimously thanked Ms. Challenger for her exemplary service in both roles.
- The Vice-Chair Presiding recalled a letter sent to the Secretariat from the African Group of Negotiators on 1 February 2026 regarding a request for information on proxy voting. The Vice-Chair Presiding noted that the modality of voting by proxy was not anticipated at INC-5.3, as was discussed by the Bureau at its meeting of 28 January 2026, but that it could possibly be reverted to in advance of a subsequent session. No comments were received from the Bureau on this matter.
- Vice-Chair Irma Gurguliani (Georgia) indicated her willingness to take on the role of Rapporteur if the Committee supports this proposal.
- Before concluding the meeting, the Vice-Chair Presiding encouraged candidates and regional groups to continue consulting bilaterally on the possibility of holding elections by acclamation.
- Bureau members expressed appreciation for the Vice-Chair Presiding's leadership.
- The next Bureau meeting will be held at a later date, to be determined by the new Chair of the Committee.