

Overview of the Global Plastic Treaty: Objectives and Impacts



**#Break
Free
From
Plastic**

Nipe Fagio



Nipe Fagio (NF) is an NGO founded in 2013. Nipe Fagio exists to drive systemic change in Tanzania and East Africa. Systemic problems require systemic solutions that are socially inclusive, address historical social injustice, and are environmentally built and climate resilient.

We work in a three-pillar strategy, aligning **DATA** gathering, **POLICY** advocacy, and **ACTION** to achieve systemic change.



Impactful data

We produce reliable and verifiable data to support data-driven decision making. We develop data collection systems that are tailored to national and regional reality. Nipe Fagio's database on waste holds over 10 years of data entries.



Effective policy

We engage in national, regional and global policy advocacy to support positive systemic change in the waste sector and build the framework for a socially-just and climate-resilient world.



Transformative Action

We implement transformative projects to enable positive systemic change in the waste management sector. Systemic problems require systemic solutions that are replicable and impactful.





It's Everywhere!



LET'S PLAY
TRUE OR FALSE?

TRUE OR FALSE?

**Approximately 90% of plastic
is recycled!**



FALSE

Only 10% of all plastic ever discarded since 1950 has actually been recycled. Almost every piece of plastic ever made still exists in some shape or form. We can't recycle our way out of the plastic pollution crisis and the best way to solve plastic pollution is to stop producing so much unnecessary single-use plastic in the first place.

TRUE OR FALSE?

Humans use about 1.2 million plastic bottles per minute in total.

The background of the slide is a photograph of a large pile of discarded plastic waste. In the upper portion, there are several clear plastic bottles, some with labels, and some green and blue boxes. In the lower portion, there are more plastic bottles, some crushed, and a yellow bag with the 'Lays' logo visible. The word 'TRUE' is written in a large, orange, serif font across the top of the image.

TRUE

Roughly **half of our global annual plastic production is destined for a single-use products.**

A photograph showing a large, messy pile of discarded plastic bottles and other trash on the ground. The bottles are mostly clear plastic, some with labels like 'Coca-Cola' and 'Pepsi'. There are also some cardboard boxes and other debris mixed in. The background is a mix of dirt and grass.

TRUE OR FALSE?

Plastic is toxic and affects human health!

TRUE

The background of the slide is a photograph of various pieces of discarded plastic waste, including water bottles, food packaging, and a bag of Lay's chips, scattered on a grassy surface.

Plastics may contain a mix of more than 16,000 different chemicals, and at least 4,200 (or 26%) of these are highly hazardous to human and environmental health, according to an international team of scientists with the PlastChem Project. This means they are officially recognised to be toxic, persistent or have other concerning properties such as leaching into our food, homes, and the environment, adversely affecting human health and the environment.

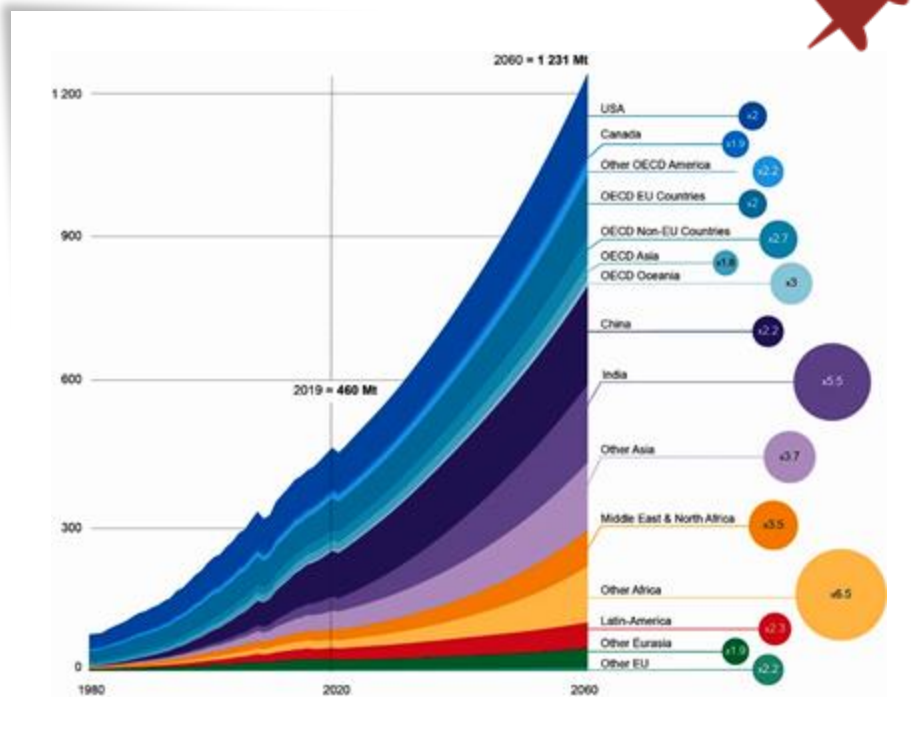
THE STORY OF



Global Plastics Policy Outlook Scenarios to 2060

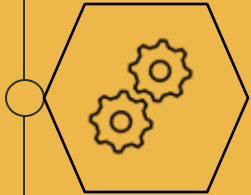


- ❑ The use of plastics could almost triple globally, while OECD countries are projected to double their plastics use, the largest increases are expected in emerging economies in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.
- ❑ Plastic waste is also projected to almost triple by 2060, with half of all plastic waste still being landfilled and less than a fifth recycled.
- ❑ Plastic leakage to the environment is projected to double to 44 million tonnes (Mt) a year, while the build-up of plastics in aquatic environments will more than triple, exacerbating environmental and health impacts.



The root cause of the plastics crisis!

Plastic is Fossil Fuel!



In the name of convenience, progressiveness and human desirability, the petrochemical industry has flooded the world with plastics . Currently 6% of total oil production is used by the plastic sector, and it is estimated that it will represent 20% by 2050!



Plastic bag
20 years



Coffee cup
30 years



Plastic straw
200 years



6-pack plastic rings
400 years

“

Plastic will be the main ingredient of our grandchildren's recipes. ~ Anthony T. Hincks



Plastic water bottle
450 years



Coffee pod
500 years



Plastic cups
450 years

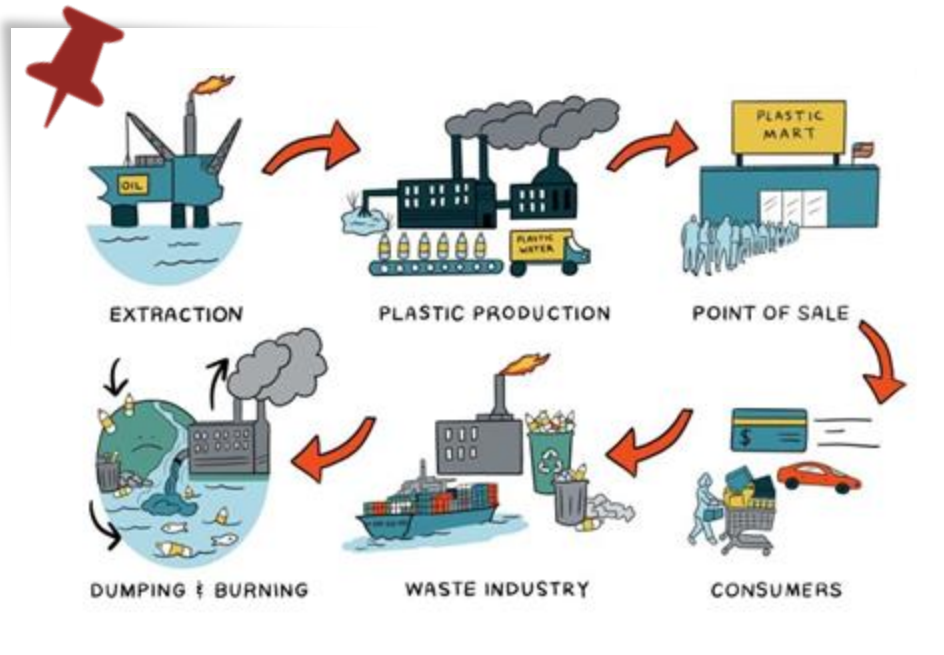


Disposable diaper
500 years



Plastic toothbrush
500 years

Plastic pollutes at every stage of its life cycle



Many of plastic's worst impacts, such as **greenhouse gas emissions and toxic air emissions**, occur primarily in the production phase. If the lifecycle of plastics were a country, it would be the fifth largest greenhouse gas emitter on Earth!

Other problems, such as the **transfer of toxic compounds into food**, happen in the use-phase, while **non-recyclability** of most plastics is an end-of-life issue.

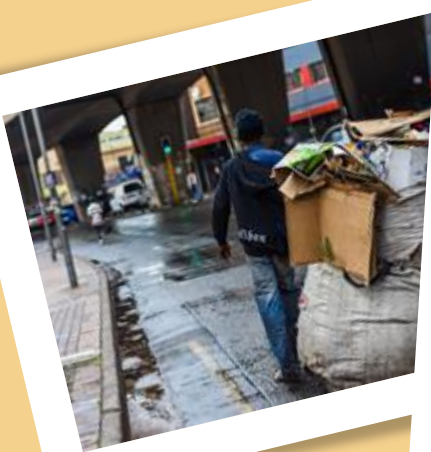
Africa's Plastic Reality!



Out of 54 African states, 34 have either passed a law banning plastics and implemented it or have passed a law with the intention of implementation

16 have totally banned plastic bags.

- Illicit waste trade
- Cross-border smuggling
- Little to no incentives for alternate delivery systems
- Intensive lobbying by powerful private sector
- Inadequate national capacity
- Thriving black markets
- Power of the plastic industry
- Weak institutions
- Top-down policy approaches
- Lack of branding or misbranding
- Corruption
- Lack of regional cooperation



The U.N. is Negotiating a Treaty that Could Solve the Plastic Problem.

Here's What You Need to Know!



THE GLOBAL PLASTICS TREATY



The Global Plastics Treaty is an acknowledgement by governments that plastic pollution knows no borders and therefore global coordinated action is needed - and given the failure of several voluntary initiatives, and the severity of the plastic pollution crisis, the time was ripe for a treaty.





How did the Global Plastics Treaty come about?

On the **2nd March 2022** the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) announced the adoption of the world's first global plastics treaty to **END PLASTIC POLLUTION**.

This moment in history offers the world a global solution to the global problem of plastic pollution and recognizes the right we all have to a healthy, safe & clean environment.





How Did the Global Plastics Treaty come about?

The Global Plastics Treaty is the result of strong pressure that has been building globally for action on plastics for several years.

At the international level this has been part of ongoing discussions at the **United Nations Environment Assembly** that brings together a group of countries every 2 years or so and at the **last meeting (UNEA 5.2)**, the world got a unanimous resolution that we refer to as a mandate or **(resolution 5/14)**.



The United Nations Environment Assembly is the governance body responsible for setting the global environmental agenda, providing overarching policy guidance, and defining policy responses to address emerging environmental challenges.

Journey towards Plastic treaty



A Global South-led Path



「プラスチック削減を国際条約へ」が歴史的な一歩である理由
環境関連では2015年の「パリ協定」以来、最も重要な合意

FT中文网

世界领导人同意起草“历史性”的治理塑料污染条约

联合国环境大会无视以石化行业为首的既得利益集团的反对，通过了这项雄心勃勃的决议。

The Guardian For 200 years

The Guardian view on plastics: a treaty could stem the tide

editorial

euronews.

'Most significant environmental deal since Paris' UN agrees on landmark plastic pollution treaty



FOLHA DE S. PAULO

★ ★ ★

Tratado da ONU incentiva reúso para combater lixo plástico

National Geographic
El planeta se pone de acuerdo para solucionar la crisis de los residuos plásticos



02 MAR 2022 | PRESS RELEASE
Historic day in the campaign to beat plastic pollution: Nations commit to develop a legally binding agreement

Nairobi, 02 March 2022 – Heads of State, Ministers of environment and other representatives from UN Member States endorsed a historic resolution at the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) today in Nairobi to End...

Le Monde

Pollution plastique : l'ONU fait un pas de plus vers un texte « juridiquement contraignant »

Le mandat de négociations couvre un très large spectre de sujets, de la production du plastique à son utilisation « durable » en passant par la gestion des déchets.

DAILY NEWS

GLOBAL PLASTICS TREATY URGES COUNTRIES TO RECOGNIZE WASTE PICKERS



REUTERS

'Biggest green deal since Paris': UN to approve plastic treaty roadmap

The New York Times

The World Is Awash in Plastic. Nations Plan a Treaty to Fix That.

What is the Plastic Treaty?

- ❑ 5 years in the making: successive efforts since the third meeting of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA3) in 2017, culminating in UNEA resolution 5/14 (2022)
- ❑ Resolution 5/14 establishes an intergovernmental negotiations committee (INC) to negotiate a legally-binding treaty “on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment [...] based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastic”
- ❑ Treaties are negotiated between governments – we are observers, and can only make suggestions, but cannot directly propose or oppose text
- ❑ The institutional makeup is still undetermined but one option is a treaty that would have a mix of global obligations and National Action Plans
- ❑ Once the treaty is finalized, countries will have the option to ratify it or not.
- ❑ If they do, there’s an opportunity to strengthen and harmonize national regulations to combat plastic pollution, towards a common global goal – global common ground
- ❑ Countries remain free to legislate additional or more ambitious controls.



Why does the Global Plastics Treaty Matter?

- **The Global Plastics Treaty will be the first opportunity in history** to address what national regulations cannot such as global plastic production, global plastic pollution and global finance to tackle plastic pollution.
- It will be a **global avenue** to unlock systemic change away from plastics at both pace and scale



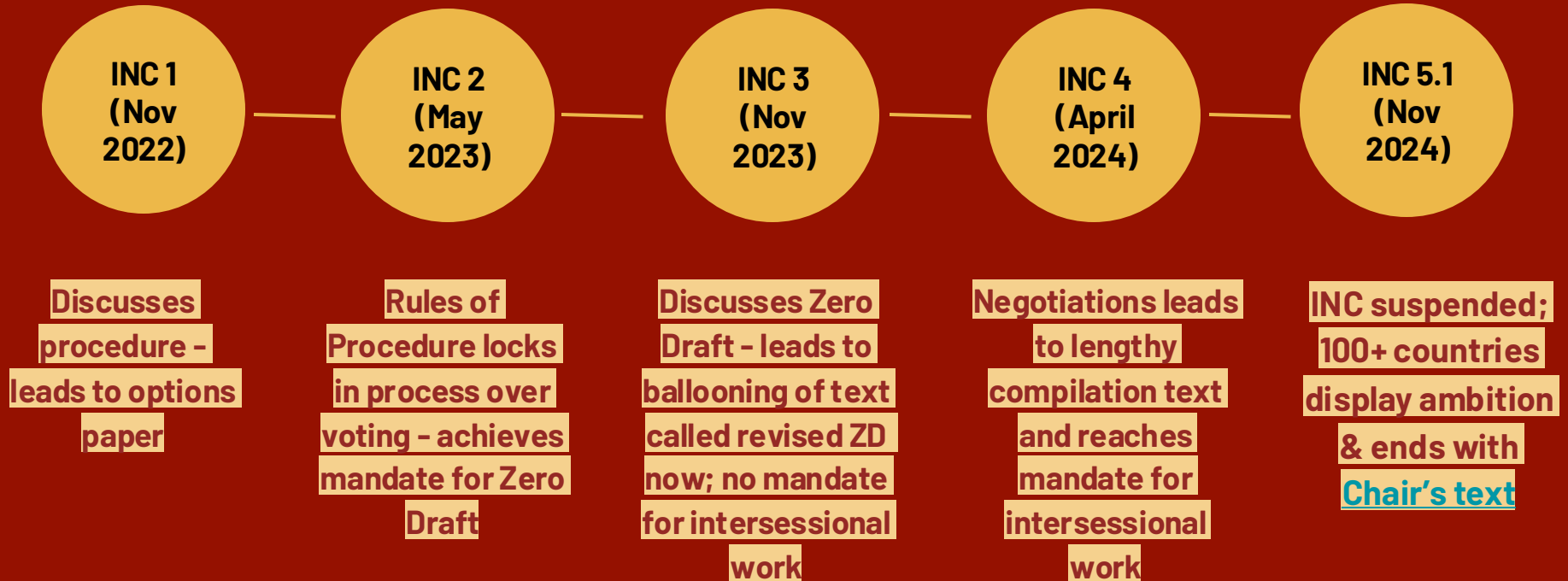


Why does the Global Plastics Treaty Matter?

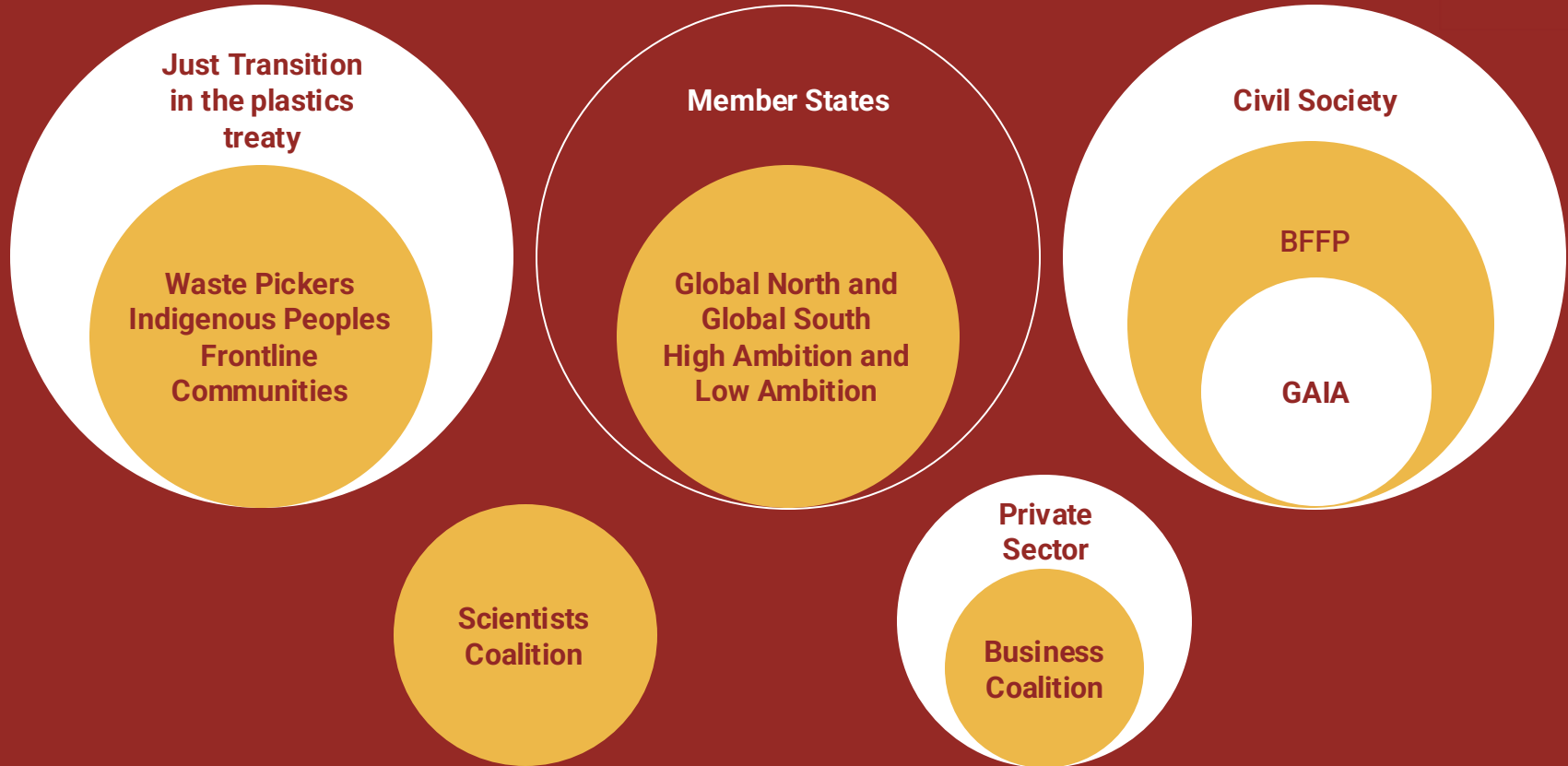
- **A strong treaty could push the entire petrochemical, plastic and FMCGs (Fast Moving Consumer Goods Companies) industry to shift towards reuse and environmentally sound design.**
- Finally, it has the potential to hold all signing countries to a high common minimum standard of action.



The negotiations so far



The Universe



Is it JUST about global policy?

Negotiations

**Movement
Building**

**Narrative
Building**

**Local, National,
Regional and
Global Power**

The Treaty Over Time

**Movement
Alignment**

- **UNEA 5.2: Resolution approved and Just Transition included**

- **INC 3: Global South leadership. No deal is better than a bad deal**

- **INC 1: time lost in procedural matters, Indigenous Peoples participation, WPs wins and unhelpful Stakeholder Forum**

- **INC 4: Impossible-to-negotiate text. Civil Society exclusion begins. Civil Society conflict. Multilateralism questioning**

- **INC 2: Politics start to play and procedural battles intensify – first main loss**

- **INC 5: Major political win in a long path to secure not just an ambitious treaty but also a treaty that won't negatively impact our work**

Display of ambition at INC 5.1



At INC-5.1 Ambition Won



- **We Won all that we could have Won**

- **We won the political dynamics, we won the narratives, we won the numbers, we won the alliances.**

- **Celebrate!**

- **Now it is time to translate into treaty text the wins that we had in narrative.** This is what could not be won at INC-5.1.

- **We won even if they didn't lose!**

- **The work continues!**

Goal for INC 5.2

A treaty package that is acceptable to a **critical mass of **countries** without seeking an impossible unanimity.**



**EFFECTIVE ENOUGH
TO BE WORTH FUNDING**



**REFLECTS THE PRIORITIES
OF A CRITICAL MASS OF
COUNTRIES**

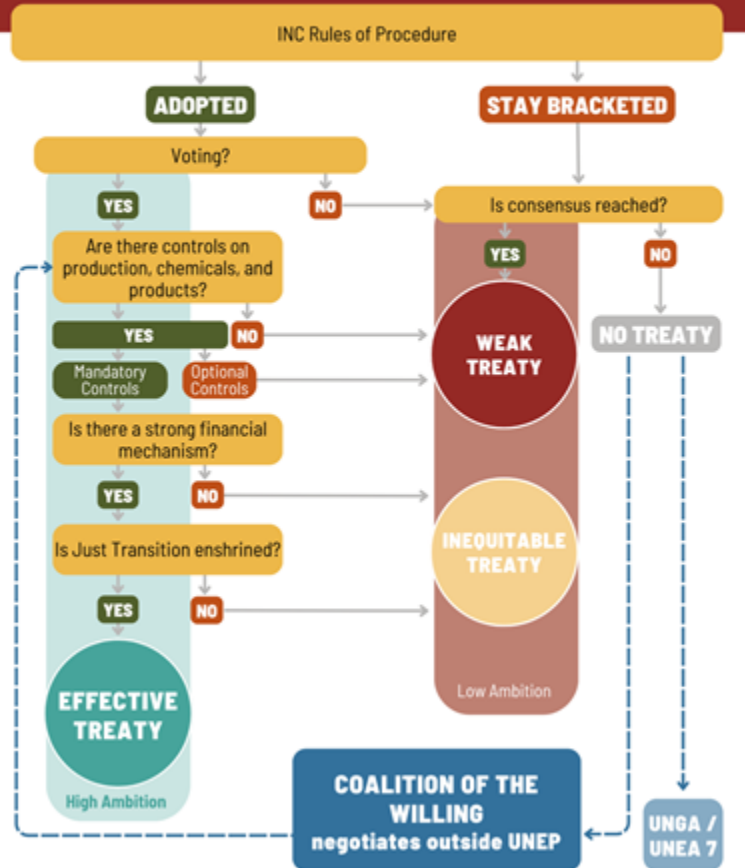


Ingredients for an effective treaty

A legally binding plastic treaty

1. Reduces overall plastic production
2. Eliminates toxics
3. Scales up reuse & refill
4. Just transition for waste workers & other informal workers
5. Polluter and producer accountability
6. No loopholes, do no harm: all plastics including biobased, no polluting technologies, no credits, no worsening environmental injustice
7. A new dedicated fund for treaty implementation & compliance, especially for LDCs and SIDS
8. Right to Vote for decision making

Plastics Treaty INC-5.2 PATHWAYS





Africa CSO Priorities in the Treaty

Our Role/Action In the Lead-up to INC5.2

- ★ Mobilize Further Endorsement for the Africa Youth Statement Rejecting Waste-to-Energy in the Treaty
- ★ Write to your ministers & INC Focal Points to Uphold AMCEN 19/2 at AMCEN 20
- ★ Amplify the CSO Manifesto
- ★ Get behind the Global Week of Action before INC5.2 - Week of 21 July



Priority 1: Ensure the Objective and Scope align with the treaty negotiations mandate in UNEA Resolution 5/14 to “end plastic pollution” “based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the **full life cycle of plastic**” – with **clarity on the Definition of Full Life Cycle**.

Why is this Important for Africa?

- The impacts and injustices of plastic pollution manifest at each stage of its lifecycle. Upon examining extraction, production, use and disposal of plastic, health and environmental effects occur at every stage of the plastics lifecycle, whether caused by plastic itself or by additives and processing.
- The health, lives, livelihoods and communities of the Ogoni people of the Niger Delta that have been affected by oil & gas extraction is a time in Africa's history that should never be repeated.

Priority 2: Health, Just transition & Human Rights is central to the treaty & cross-cutting
- these perspectives needs to be imbedded in all relevant parts of the agreement.

Why is this Important for Africa?

Health: Numerous recent scientific studies confirm that many of the thousands of chemicals used in plastics (including monomers, polymers and additives) are toxic. These studies highlight that some of the chemicals and additives contained in plastics, and used in their production, are endocrine disruptors and can cause hormonal imbalances, reproductive disorders, infertility and increase risks for renal disease and cancers.

Just Transition: All measures taken in regulating the plastic life cycle must be seen through a just transition lens for all workers and communities affected by transformative changes in the global plastics economy. Recognition and priority must be given to the important role waste pickers and waste workers play in cooperative settings that are directly exposed to the impacts of plastic pollution. Waste picker organising and formalisation has been on the rise in Africa, with countries like South Africa and Kenya leading the way. The value of waste picker organising in Africa and worldwide ensures that waste pickers are recognised, their voices are heard, and their profession is given the dignity and respect it deserves.

Human Rights: "A human rights-based approach to global plastics problem is central, focusing on human rights principles as well as mechanisms for accountability and access to remedy." The plastic pollution crisis has deepened existing injustices caused by colonialism, slavery, racism and capitalism that exceeds our planetary boundaries, and disproportionately harms low-income communities and in particular black, brown and indigenous communities.

Priority 3: Strong provision on production – especially on virgin and primary plastic polymer production & the regulation &/or elimination of unnecessary single use plastics, problematic and avoidable plastics. [i.e. phaseout of problematic products (or immediate bans where possible), and a phasedown of overall plastic production]

Why is this Important for Africa?

- The majority of African countries are not net producers of plastics and should, therefore, be more ambitious in calling for an overall reduction on plastic production. The plastic crisis faced by African countries cannot be solved by waste management infrastructure unless combined with production regulations. Africa's sovereignty is undermined by toxic and non-recyclable plastic waste exports in the form of waste colonialism from high-producing Global North countries, which disproportionately harms low-income communities and informal sector workers on the continent, violating their human right to a clean, safe and healthy environment that is toxic-free.
- Reducing production is an essential condition to end plastic pollution. This is also necessary to stay below the 1.5°C target, harmonize with other multilateral environmental agreements, tackle the triple planetary crisis and create a safe and just future for all. – We therefore support the more than 100 countries that are demanding bold action to rein in plastic production—because without it, we can't keep global heating below 1.5°C and protect our people & planet.

Priority 4: Traceability & transparency for chemicals in plastics so we can ensure safe standards for redesign, recycling & reuse & eliminating toxic chemicals & polymers of concern in plastics by hazard & group-based criteria approaches

Why is this Important for Africa?

- We can't manage what we can't measure: Harmonised, mandatory, and transparent reporting across the full life cycle of plastics is the foundation of an effective instrument.
- In Africa, 50 countries are net importers of plastics, we don't manufacture these plastics in our countries. The obligation of providing transparency of chemicals will therefore lie on the plastic producer or manufacturing countries of the world therefore this obligation is a net benefit to the African region.
- Having a strong provision on chemical transparency in plastics will have a net benefit for African countries so we will be informed on whether the products and the articles that we import will have a detrimental effect on the environment and human health and they can make good decisions based on sound information.
- Additionally, chemicals of concern in plastics must be banned or phased-out based on a hazard and group-based approach to avoid regrettable substitutes.

Priority 5: Strong & Robust Multilateral Dedicated fund to support the compliance and implementation of the treaty

Why is this Important for Africa?

- Almost 100 Countries around the world are in support of a “New Operating Entity” to implement the Global Plastics Treaty [AP, LAC & Africa].
- If we want to have an ambitious treaty, we need to raise the ambition to par the Means of Implementation, it's the only logical way to achieve a successful treaty through a Multilateral Dedicated fund. Especially for developing countries like in Africa. We can't be having a formula that would indebt us further. There is a serious problem of plastic pollution that needs to be addressed yes but we also need the money to address it effectively and equitably.
- A dedicated Multilateral Fund should therefore be the principal international vehicle for providing support to developing countries for implementing their treaty obligations that includes new, additional, predictable, sustainable, accessible, stable, timely and adequate finance. – EVERYTHING WHICH EXISTING FUNDING SOURCE ARE NOT!

Priority 6: Compliance mechanism to hold producers accountable for their production - i.e. the Treaty provides a framework to hold polluters accountable through the polluter pays principle by strengthening standards & guidelines on EPR to hold midstream & downstream actors accountable and introducing the Global Plastic Pollution Fee to hold upstream actors/polymer producers accountable.

Why is this Important for Africa?

- Africa are not net producers of the plastics, yet are extremely challenged by plastic pollution. Therefore, mechanisms under the treaty to hold producers accountable for the products they put on the market will be beneficial to Africa.
- EPR can be one way to hold midstream and downstream actors accountable, But what we want to avoid is that EPR is seen as a silver bullet solution or being able to drive changes upstream. What can drive changes upstream is, for example, the plastic pollution fees, which will be placed on polymers, before the polymers become products or packaging. It's also easier to implement, because there are only a handful of polymer production countries, about 10 or so countries. The philanthropic Minderoo Foundation - looked into the impact of such plastic polymer fee. The research shows that a small fee could have a significant - even crucial - impact for the treaty to end plastic pollution. Without a fee, even an ambitious treaty will not end plastic pollution - because developing countries will lack financing to address pollution costs

"The priorities put forward require the appropriate measures to ensure an effective and comprehensive treaty with strict baseline assessments, timebound targets, reporting, evaluation & compliance mechanisms."



WHAT DO WE WANT?

**We now have a once in a
lifetime opportunity to
end the plastic age
through the global
plastics treaty!**



SIGN THE MANIFESTO



Manifesto for a Future Free from Plastic Pollution
Giving the world a strong global Plastics Treaty

Translations coming up

[Español](#) | [Français](#) | [中文](#) | [Bahasa Indonesia](#) | [Swahili](#) | [Deutsch](#) | [Portugues](#) | [Hindi](#)

Plastic is not a choice; it is an imposition on our daily lives, with harmful impacts on the climate, biodiversity, human health, human rights, and the ability of the planet to support and sustain life. Without significant cuts in the production of plastics, the harm caused by plastics will only intensify.

People around the world - from every continent and community - have expressed their support for measures to urgently address unchecked plastic production, consumption, and pollution. After three years of Plastics Treaty negotiations, the world expects global leaders to agree on a treaty fit-for-purpose when they next meet this August in Geneva, Switzerland. Only an international legally binding agreement based on the key elements below will successfully end plastic pollution across the full lifecycle, from the extraction of raw materials to disposal. The world needs an ambitious treaty that can effectively safeguard the rights and health of people, protect communities, and preserve the planet.

As signatories to the 'Manifesto for a Future Free from Plastic Pollution', we urgently demand a treaty that reclaims our right to a healthy environment.

On the road to an ambitious treaty



Asanteni sana!

Thank you



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