

16 April 2026

Third letter from the Chair of the INC on Plastic Pollution

Dear friends,

I would like to start by thanking you for your commitment and renewed energy in moving the INC process forward. I have had the chance to interact informally with most of you, and I can only express my appreciation as I receive your ideas and contributions, with the clear aim of building a path that will bring us all closer together.

As you may recall, in my [first letter](#) on 19 February I shared general comments and the basic principles that in my view should inspire our work, with a special emphasis on transparency, inclusivity and predictability. My [second letter](#) on 16 March then described a roadmap of informal activities, virtual and in-person, as well as the sequence and frequency of those engagements. In the same letter, I also included considerations about the need to have a single informal reference document as a basis for our discussions, and my approach to how this could be addressed.

In this third letter, I would like to delve deeper into a possible methodology to make progress on the substance of our work that can be developed over the calendar of activities expressed in the roadmap. In this regard, I would like to point out some of the objectives that we might need to pursue in our discussions.

These objectives are not mutually exclusive. On the contrary, I see them as complementary, as each contributes to capturing and consolidating our progress. For ease of presentation, I will refer to these objectives as the “**four Cs**”:

1. **Conceptual discussions.** Some areas will require further discussions to fully understand the priorities and the rationale of bridging proposals. This calls for conceptual consideration and enhanced dialogue among delegations.
2. **Clarity in the text.** As much as INC Members need to exchange views on a conceptual basis, we will also need to keep a close focus on how to bring our conceptual understanding to a textual level. The way we express ideas is crucial for making progress. This also refers to my plan, already mentioned in my second letter, to develop an informal reference document to serve as a basis for our work.
3. **Connections between parts of the instrument.** Many of you have noted that certain articles cannot be fully understood in isolation, and that exploring the connections between articles can also unlock further understanding and support progress towards consensus solutions. Exploring these connections can be crucial to furthering our work.

4. **Comprehensive view of the instrument.** As we make progress in our discussions, it will be important to remind ourselves that this international legally binding instrument must be a coherent document that responds adequately to our mandate. The instrument will exist in the context of other relevant legal regimes, and we will need to consider its complementarity with them. The instrument will also need to be sensitive to national circumstances and therefore useful for all, despite countries having unique priorities and departure points.

Taking this into account, it is important that we build on our work so far, recognizing that the nearly four years since the adoption of UNEA Resolution 5/14 have yielded important progress. Many hours have been dedicated to understanding one another and to listening to different positions and proposals. We should use this work as a foundation for stronger communication and understanding. We are now in a different moment, a better moment, thanks to these efforts. We are indeed in the final stage of the INC negotiations, and as I have said on many occasions, we must act with a sense of urgency to complete our work without rushing in the preparation of the final instrument.

Advancing towards the adoption of a legally binding instrument requires that we also bring greater structure to our discussions, especially now that we will face both technical issues in the text as well as issues of a more political nature.

Moving forward together to complete our work

As we move through the different areas of the INC process, we should avoid restating positions and instead approach our work as a step-by-step progression, building on previous deliberations towards a deeper level of understanding. While occasional revisiting of certain elements may be necessary to ensure a shared understanding, it is essential that we maintain steady progress in a structured and predictable manner.

In order to achieve this, I would like to propose that we use three criteria to organize the sequence of topics we will be discussing:

1. **The first criterion is that we have a balanced approach between all issues under consideration.** This is connected to a comprehensive view of the document, as explained before. I hope that we can reaffirm some solid points in our discussions, where higher levels of convergence can be identified, but also provide an opportunity to explore areas where we will need to deepen our common understanding to achieve consensus.

2. The **second criterion is to address connections between topics** so that we can also explore possible interactions between them for a combined analysis.
3. **Thirdly, it is key that we take stock** and allow time to reflect on our overall direction, adjust our course if needed, and identify potential breakthroughs or new ideas.

My proposal is that we use the upcoming informal virtual Heads of Delegation (HODs) meeting at the end of this month to begin applying this methodology, with clear guiding questions to frame the discussion. Each meeting can be followed by a Summary Note elaborated under my own responsibility, which may help keep track of our discussions and share some personal reflections if appropriate.

This methodology can serve as the basis for the discussions in our informal virtual HODs meeting scheduled for [30 April](#) and a further virtual HODs meeting, to be planned for [28 May](#), aiming at completing a general review of all relevant topics by the conclusion of the in-person HODs meeting in Nairobi from 30 June to 3 July.

As I have indicated on previous occasions, the goal is that, by then, I will be in a position to start working on an informal reference document, with the support of the Secretariat and in consultation with the Bureau, which I will make available to all Members of the Committee after the informal in-person HODs meeting in Nairobi.

It is my hope that this methodology will provide ample opportunities to explore possible solutions and proposals to advance our work on a firm ground, while leaving no one behind and adhering to the principles of transparency, inclusivity, and predictability.

I will be communicating soon the specific guiding questions for the informal virtual HODs meeting organized for 30 April, which will follow the criteria set out earlier in this letter. To the extent possible, I will also provide some contextual information to frame the questions, which I invite you to consider in preparing your interventions and inputs.

Thank you very much again for your commitment and willingness to make substantial progress. I remain at your disposal to continue consulting and exchanging views, with our minds set on our final objective.

Julio Cordano
INC Chair