United Nations Environment Programme

26 September 2026

Intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment
Bureau meeting
Tuesday, 15 September 2026
15:00- 17:00 EAT
Online

DRAFT SUMMARY AND ACTION POINTS INC BUREAU MEETING 15 SEPTEMBER 2026

Note by the Secretariat

1. The meeting was attended by the following members:

   African States: Mr. Ndiaye Cheikh Sylla (Senegal);

   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: Mr. Linroy Christian (Antigua and Barbuda);

   Western European and Other States: Ms. Johanna Lissinger-Peitz (Sweden).

2. The meeting was presided over by the Chair of the Committee, Ambassador Julio Cordano.

3. As agreed by the Bureau during its meeting held on 18 June 2026, Mr. Michael Butera (Rwanda) attended the meeting in an observer capacity as the nominee of the African States for the vacant position for the region.

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

5. At the outset of the meeting, the Chair informed the Bureau that the Western European and Other States had nominated Mr. Andrew Clark (United States of America) to replace Ms. Larke Williams (United States of America), who resigned from her role on the Bureau in advance of the Bureau meeting of 5 August 2026. The Bureau agreed that, following past practice, Mr. Clark would be invited to attend the current and subsequent Bureau meetings as an observer until such time as the Committee could consider him for election as Vice-Chair. Following this agreement, Mr. Clark joined the meeting.

6. The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming the Bureau members and thanking them for their efforts leading to the informal in-person Heads of Delegation meeting to be held in Bangkok from 27 to 30 September 2026. He informed the Bureau that, during the meeting, he would provide an overview of steps taken in the Roadmap set out in his second letter of 16 March 2026, as well as an overview of the next steps toward preparations for INC-5.4. He also extended a welcomed to Mr. Clark as observer to the Bureau and expressed gratitude to Ms. Williams for her valuable contributions during her tenure as a Bureau member, which was echoed by all Bureau members.

7. In her opening remarks, the Executive Secretary welcomed the Bureau, including by welcoming Mr. Clark as observer to the Bureau. She informed the Bureau that the informal virtual Heads of Delegation meeting held on 8 and 9 September 2026 had seen strong attendance and participation, with 191 delegates representing 99 Members of the Committee in attendance. She recalled that, on 11 September 2026, the Secretariat had circulated a call for written views from accredited observer organizations on the guiding questions that were circulated to Members of the Committee on 9 September. She noted that the deadline for receipt of written views from Observers is 23 September 2026.

8. The Executive Secretary informed the Bureau that, as of the time of reporting, no formal offer had been received to host INC-5.4, although the Secretariat has responded to several inquiries from interested Members regarding hosting arrangements, with consultations ongoing.

9. In relation to regional consultations in preparation for INC-5.4, the Executive Secretary informed the Bureau that the Secretariat is currently exploring the possibility of organizing such consultations back-to-back with the third informal in-person meeting to be held within the period of 25 January to 2 February 2027. She noted that, due to the timeline for planning and logistical arrangements, this would be the only available option for the Secretariat to be able to facilitate the organization of regional consultations in the lead-up to INC-5.4.

10. The Chair then outlined the agenda, which was adopted with no amendments.

11. Under agenda item 2 on 'Adoption of the report of the Bureau meeting of 5 August 2026', the report was adopted with no amendments.

12. Under agenda item 3 on 'Updates on the implementation of the Roadmap', the Chair thanked the Bureau members and all Members of the Committee for their continued engagement and commitment to moving the process forward. The Chair invited the Bureau to provide any updates on country-led meetings that took place since the last Bureau meeting, as well as the outcomes of any such meetings. No updates were reported by Bureau members in this regard.

13. The Chair informed the Bureau that, since the last Bureau meeting, he has continued to meet with Members and Observers, both individually and in groups. He indicated that, at all meetings with Members, he heard anticipation for using the Aid to Negotiations as a reference tool for the upcoming discussions in Bangkok. He also noted that he had received many comments acknowledging that the Aid to Negotiations was a starting point for discussions and would be developed further leading up to INC-5.4.

14. The Chair provided an update on his meetings with Observers and noted that such engagements provide a valuable opportunity to hear from Observers about their priorities. He noted that he intends to continue these interactions on a regular basis leading up to INC-5.4, including during his attendance in New York for the United Nations General Assembly.

15. The Chair reminded the Bureau that he will be attending the High-level week in New York for the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly ahead of traveling to Bangkok for the next informal in-person Heads of Delegation meeting, and that he intends to continue his engagements with Members while in attendance. He informed the Bureau that the Secretariat remains available to facilitate and coordinate any meeting requests that Members may wish to arrange in-person during the High-level week.

16. In relation to the informal virtual Heads of Delegation meeting held on 8 and 9 September, the Chair recalled that it was held in two sessions to accommodate different time zones and noted that both sessions were well attended. He informed the Bureau that there were many interventions from Members on the topics of discussion, being the financial mechanism of the future instrument and capacity building, technical assistance and technology transfer. He also

expressed appreciation for statements made by Members during the virtual meeting in relation to general feedback on the Aid to Negotiations. He emphasized that the Aid to Negotiations is intended as a reference point to provide structure to exchanges leading up to INC-5.4, and not as a final document for consideration by Members, but rather.

17. The Chair remarked that the discussions held during the informal virtual Heads of Delegation meeting would continue to inform discussions that will take place on the same topics in Bangkok. He encouraged Members of the Committee to continue considering proposals and solutions that may follow from interventions made during the virtual meeting, and to carry those proposals forward leading to INC-5.4.

18. The Chair informed the Bureau that he will prepare a summary of the virtual meeting to be publishing in due course, as he had done for previous informal virtual meetings. He noted that the summary will provide a factual overview of the discussions that took place to ensure Members that were not able to attend the meeting are kept informed.

19. Under the agenda item 4 on 'Next steps to INC-5.4', the Chair recalled that the Secretariat had sent a notification to Members informing that the informal in-person Heads of Delegation meeting in Bangkok would follow a 'Head of Delegation plus four' (HOD+4) approach, which is an update from the previous HOD+3 arrangement.

20. The Chair also recalled that, on 20 August, the Secretariat published on his behalf a 'Note by the Chair' to assist Members in preparing for the in-person meeting in Bangkok. He provided an overview of the note, indicating that it sets out the objective of the meeting, as well as proposed outcomes, format, mode of work, clusters and documentation for the meeting.

21. The Chair noted that the topics allocated to Clusters for the Bangkok meeting have been adjusted since the informal in-person Heads of Delegation meeting in Nairobi and informed the Bureau that this had been done in response to feedback received from Members to provide a more streamlined approach to discussions in Clusters. He acknowledged that there are many different ways to structure topics in each Cluster and encouraged Members to critically consider the interrelationships between the topics of each Cluster as they have been set out for the Bangkok meeting. He informed the Bureau that, following the Bangkok meeting, and in response to any feedback from Members, the approach could be further adjusted ahead of the next in-person meeting.

22. Highlighting the targeted consultations referenced in the Note, the Chair informed the Bureau that he intends to consult Members on the scope of the instrument; decision-making; possible consideration of long-term goals of the instrument; and subsidiary body or bodies under the instrument.

23. In relation to the scope of the instrument, the Chair noted that the Aid to Negotiations has included a placeholder as there is yet no clear text that could be included on this topic. He informed the Bureau that he intends to engage with Members in Bangkok to have more clarity on what text may be included in the next iteration of the Aid to Negotiations, including whether such text might be reflected as a standalone article or through another approach.

24. Regarding his consultations on decision-making, the Chair recognized that the topic remains important to many delegations. He recalled that he had heard many proposals at the Nairobi in-person meeting on how to approach the topic. He informed the Bureau that he intends to ask Members during his consultations in Bangkok whether there are additional considerations beyond what was shared in Nairobi. He acknowledged that Members may not need to engage in detailed discussions on the topic, but that it continues to be important to provide space for Members to convey any additional considerations.

25. The Chair noted that his consultations on the role of any subsidiary body or bodies under the instrument would focus on the possible functions of any such bodies toward effective implementation of the instrument. He also noted that, in response to proposals from Members, he would commence consultations on the long-term goals of the instrument, including on the possible placement in the instrument of any long-term goals.

26. The Chair informed the Bureau that the informal meeting in Bangkok would largely rely on the same Co-facilitators as the informal meeting in Nairobi, although some adjustments would be necessary due to availability constraints. Due to the unavailability of Mr. Abdulaziz Albutti (Saudi Arabia) and Ms. Victoria Hallum (New Zealand), the Chair informed the Bureau that the co-facilitators of Cluster A for the meeting in Bangkok would be Mr. Eyad Aljubran (Saudi Arabia) and Ms. Renée Yap (New Zealand).

27. The Chair also informed the Bureau that, due to current public health-related entry restrictions in Thailand related to enhanced Ebola prevention measures for travellers arriving from or transiting through Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ms. Naomi Karekaho (Uganda) may be unable to attend as Co-facilitator for Cluster D, and that the Secretariat remains in contact with the African States regarding a possible replacement for Ms. Karekaho for the meeting in Bangkok.

28. The Chair reiterated his deep gratitude for all Co-facilitators involved and informed the Bureau that he has asked the Co-facilitators to play an active role in their respective Clusters, guiding discussions and highlighting areas where progress may be made. He underscored that the Clusters will not engage in any live text editing, while noting that possible bridging proposals may be projected on the screen in a Cluster if it would help Members to more easily visualize the topic of discussion.

29. The Chair noted that, similar to the informal meeting in Nairobi, the proposed organization of work includes Bureau meetings throughout the week. He proposed that the Bureau meeting to be held in the afternoon of 26 September is convened for informational purposes only, with the Co-facilitators joining for the first half of the meeting for introductory purposes. Regarding the proposed Bureau meetings of 28 and 29 September, the Chair informed the Bureau that these meetings would only be convened as needed to ensure coordination and maintain a shared understanding of progress being made.

30. The Chair informed the Bureau that he intends to circulate and publish an Additional Note ahead of the meeting in Bangkok setting out supplementary information to assist Members in their preparations for the meeting, including information on approaches to bridging proposals and steps toward preparation of the second iteration of the Aid to Negotiations.

31. Emphasizing the content of his Note of 20 August, the Chair noted that the primary purpose of the informal meeting in Bangkok would be to provide a platform for discussions on possible ways forward using the Aid to Negotiations as a reference. He noted that the discussions in Bangkok, including bridging proposals and potential solutions, as well as the progress made during the Nairobi Heads of Delegation meeting would inform the preparation of a second iteration of the Aid to Negotiations. He further noted that this second iteration will be translated into all six official UN languages ahead of INC-5.4.

32. In addition to the second iteration of the Aid to Negotiations, the Chair noted that he would also prepare a Chair's Summary of the meeting to serve as a factual overview of the main themes and areas of discussion in Bangkok. He noted that this summary would be informed by the daily 'Review of Progress' sessions and would follow the same purpose as the summary released following the Nairobi Heads of Delegation meeting.

33. The Chair recalled that the Secretariat had circulated and published, on behalf of the Chair, guiding questions for each of the Clusters on 9 September. He highlighted that he had not prepared guiding questions for each topic under each Cluster, but that the guiding questions should be viewed as a tool to help shape the starting point of discussions in Clusters. He noted that the guiding questions were not meant to limit the ability of Members to raise other elements for discussion, nor prejudge the outcome of discussions. He suggested that Members may wish to begin discussions in each Cluster by exploring the guiding questions, or may wish to focus on other matters relevant to the Cluster. He underscored that he has placed full trust in the Co-facilitators to propose paths toward progress in their respective Clusters based on the evolution of discussions in the room, including through proposing additional guiding questions in consultation with the Chair.

34. The Chair referred to the document published on 27 August outlining possible elements for draft resolutions for consideration by the diplomatic conference of plenipotentiaries. He noted that, at his request and with his guidance, the Secretariat had reviewed and updated the document of the same name that was published during INC-5.2. He further noted that this document is intended to be illustrative only and is not intended to prejudge the final content of the draft resolutions to be agreed and forwarded by the Committee to the diplomatic conference for its consideration. He indicated that the document is intended to allow Members to more easily visualize the interplay between what must be included in the instrument at the time of adoption and what details could later by clarified by the Conference of the Parties.

35. The Chair informed the Bureau that he does not intend to provide any dedicated time in Bangkok to discuss the document with possible elements for consideration by the diplomatic conference. He noted that the document must complement the instrument and encouraged Members to consider how it could take shape as the Aid to Negotiations develops and leading up to INC-5.4. He further encouraged Members to consider in Bangkok what aspects of each topic could possibly be addressed by the Conference of the Parties and what must be included in the text of the instrument at the time of adoption.

36. The Chair reminded the Bureau that he had requested the Secretariat to convene a brief information session beginning at 13:00 on 26 September in Bangkok on the process leading to, and following, the diplomatic conference. He noted that the information session would be similar to the one convened ahead of INC-5.1 and would provide an opportunity for the Secretariat to present an overview of the procedural aspects of the period following agreement of the text by the Committee, leading to the diplomatic conference and then to the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties. He encouraged all Members to attend and to ask any clarifying questions on the topic.

37. In response to the update provided by the Chair, Bureau members thanked the Chair for releasing the Aid to Negotiations while also noting that there remains room for strengthening the document to include progress made at both the Nairobi and Bangkok Heads of Delegation meetings.

38. Responding to questions from the Bureau, the Chair clarified that the opening session of the Bangkok meeting would include time for statements from regional or political groups followed by Members, as indicated in the 20 August Note by the Chair. To ensure the meeting will remain on schedule, the Chair urged any Members wishing to make statements to remain within the indicated time limits of three minutes for Members speaking in national capacity and five minutes for Members speaking on behalf of regional or political groups. He also clarified that the blocks of time indicated in the proposed organization of work during the evenings of 28 and 29 September had been reserved for any one Cluster that may require additional time for discussion, but that there would be no obligation for any Cluster to make use of this time. He further informed that the necessary logistical arrangements were in place for evening meetings, if required.

39. In relation to the questions on updates to the document outlining possible elements for draft resolutions for consideration by the diplomatic conference of plenipotentiaries, the Chair clarified that there may be a further iteration of this document following the development of the second iteration of the Aid to Negotiations. He noted that the two documents must complement each other and that the document related to the diplomatic conference must evolve together with the provisions of the Aid to Negotiations.

40. On a question related to his consultations on the topic of scope, the Chair noted that the Aid to Negotiations has a placeholder for the topic and clarified that his intention is for the second iteration of the Aid to Negotiations to have specific language setting out the proposed scope, whether through a negative list or some other format.

41. In relation to the expected approach and format for the informal in-person meeting in January, the Chair indicated that the approach taken would depend on the progress made in Bangkok and the views of Members on how best to approach possible solutions to outstanding issues in the second iteration of the Aid to Negotiations.

42. Responding to a question on the process of evolution of the Aid to Negotiations, the Chair noted that the first iteration was intended to be a 'no-surprises' document that reflected the work of the Committee up to, but not including, the informal meeting in Nairobi. He acknowledged that the Aid to Negotiations will need to evolve following the meeting in Bangkok to reflect areas of progress in order to become a possible basis for negotiations at INC-5.4. He noted that it was his intention to capture progress made during the informal meetings in Nairobi and Bangkok in a streamlined second iteration of the Aid to Negotiations, including by removing bracketed text where possible, so that Members at INC-5.4 could focus on resolving any outstanding political issues as necessary.

43. Responding to a question on specific modalities of work in Bangkok, the Chair informed the Bureau that he would provide more information in his Additional Note, as well as on arrival in Bangkok. He emphasized that there would be no live editing of text at the informal meeting and agreed with the views of Bureau members on the need for consistency in approaches across Clusters.

44. In relation to the guiding questions provided in advance of the meeting in Bangkok, the Chair underscored that the questions are intended only as a starting point to discussions, and clarified that the discussions will still address all topics under each respective Cluster.

45. In relation to a question on the possible negative list of exclusions on scope referenced in his 20 August Note, the Chair explained that, in his consultations in Nairobi, Members had elaborated on various elements that could be included in such a list but not all Members had suggested specific language that could be reflected in a list. He noted that, by proposing language in the form of a negative list, he may not be able to capture the spirit and intent of the proposals in a manner that fully reflects the positions of Members. He indicated that he intends to instead provide an oral description to Members during consultations on positions he has heard in relation to the scope of the instrument and will encourage Members to react to this informal description.

46. One Bureau member also encouraged the Chair to consider convening the third informal in-person meeting in early February due to scheduling requirements of Members in the constituency.

47. In response to past requests from the Bureau for an updated Roadmap, the Chair noted that the informal meeting in Bangkok would inform the preparation of a second iteration of the Aid to Negotiations. The second iteration, to be initially released in English no earlier than late

October or early November, will capture progress made during the informal in-person meetings in both Bangkok and Nairobi. Although the final administrative deadline for translation of documents is 22 December, the Chair indicated his intention to finalize the second iteration of the Aid to Negotiations for translation well in advance of this date.

48. The Chair informed the Bureau that, following the informal meeting in Bangkok and in advance of releasing the second iteration of the Aid to Negotiations, he would continue to engage in consultations with Members and groups of Members, including at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), to be held in October, and the 31st meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in November. He noted that, during these consultations, he would endeavour to gain clarity on how proposals raised and progress made at the informal meetings in Nairobi and Bangkok could be best reflected in the second iteration of the Aid to Negotiations.

49. The Chair informed the Bureau of his intention to convene an informal virtual Heads of Delegation meeting following the release of the second iteration of the Aid to Negotiations to continue exploring different topics and to hear reactions to the second iteration of the Aid to Negotiations. He also acknowledged the possibility of convening an additional informal virtual Heads of Delegation meeting following the in-person meeting in January 2027 while noting that Members may instead prefer to take the available time to prepare for INC-5.4 in March.

50. In addition to these meetings, the Chair noted his intention to continue to convene regular webinars with Observers to strengthen engagement and keep Observers informed of progress being made while respecting the Member-led nature of the process. He noted that he continues to encourage Members to attend webinars directed at Observers and further noted the possibility of convening interactive, informational webinars for Members and Observers on key topics of interest leading to INC-5.4.

51. In relation to his consultations to be held in advance of the second iteration of the Aid to Negotiations, the Chair was encouraged to take the opportunity to engage with all groups to seek balance and further clarity ahead of developing the document. The Chair agreed on the importance of ensuring clarity ahead of developing the second iteration while emphasizing that the second iteration of the Aid to Negotiations would not be a final product, but rather a possible starting point for discussions at INC-5.4. He underscored that the consultations would not change the elements that arose out of discussions at the informal meetings in Nairobi and Bangkok, but will instead be focused on how to best assess the maturity of various proposals that will have already been raised.

52. In response to questions from the Bureau, the Secretariat recalled that there have been no formal offers to host INC-5.4, although four countries have requested further information on hosting. The Secretariat has provided necessary information related to budget and logistical requirements. Ideally, the Secretariat expects to have a further update by the end of September. In the absence of any formal offer to host INC-5.4, the Secretariat has reserved space at the United Nations Office at Nairobi as a contingency.

53. In relation to questions on possible dedicated regional consultations ahead of INC-5.4, the Secretariat informed the Bureau that, due to administrative deadlines, such consultations would be best held back-to-back with the informal in-person meeting in January. The Secretariat indicated that regional consultations could be held for one day in advance of the informal meeting, with subsequent regional meetings being convened for two or three days immediately following the informal meeting, depending on the requirements of regions that wish to convene consultations.

54. In providing an update on the preparations for the informal meeting in Bangkok, the Secretariat reminded Bureau members that the deadline for registration was 6 September and noted that efforts were being made to accommodate late registrations and changes to delegation lists. At the time of reporting, 450 delegates had registered representing 159 Members. As there will be no on-site registration in Bangkok, Members were requested to contact the Secretariat as early as possible for any changes to delegation lists or outstanding registration requests.

55. The Secretariat recalled the notification circulated on 12 September regarding the visa application process and entry requirements to Thailand, which followed the initial notification circulated in July and previous updates to the Bureau. Members were reminded that each delegate is responsible for applying for their own entry visa as appropriate and for ensuring compliance with all requirements established by the authorities of Thailand. Delegates that require a visa and have not yet applied were encouraged to do so as early as possible, noting that visa processing may take up to 15 working days after successful completion of the application and payment as applicable. Delegates were also reminded that, as of 1 January 2025, the Kingdom of Thailand has implemented an electronic visa (e-visa) system worldwide. Accordingly, all delegates requiring an entry visa must submit their application through the official e-visa portal using the appropriate visa category for participation in the meeting. It was noted that applications submitted under the 'tourist' category are subject to rejection.

56. The Secretariat noted that it remains available to support delegates who may require further assistance with e-visa applications, with delegates being encouraged to contact the Secretariat through the 'INC Secretariat Support Request Form', including relevant information on their visa application, application number and date of submission.

57. In addition to visa requirements, delegates were also requested to complete the Thailand Digital Arrival Card (TDAC) through the appropriate website within three days before arrival in Thailand, as outlined in the information note on Visa Application and Entry Requirements for Thailand.

58. Delegates were requested to familiarize themselves with the contents of the Information Note to Participants on the INC website for further details and practical information related to the meeting. Delegates were also reminded that each delegate is responsible for making their own accommodation arrangements in Bangkok, with a non-exhaustive list of hotels having been provided in the Information Note.

59. In relation to the disbursement of Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA), the Secretariat informed the Bureau that a change in vendor has resulted in the need for new cards to be issued for sponsored delegates. The Secretariat team will be available on-site in Bangkok to assist any Member in relation to disbursement of DSA.

60. Members were reminded to inform the Secretariat as early as possible of the timing of any regional meetings that will be held in Bangkok on 26 September to enable the Secretariat to update the meeting schedule accordingly and ensure all information is available to meeting participants.

61. Under the agenda item 5 on 'Observer Engagement', the Chair informed the Bureau that, following the discussion that took place during the 5 August Bureau meeting, accredited observer organizations have been invited to submit written views on the guiding questions circulated in advance of the Bangkok meeting. He noted that these written views are being published on the INC website on a rolling basis in the order in which they are received, with a deadline of 23 September for submission of any written views. He also informed the Bureau that he has requested the Secretariat to send a notification to all Members to inform them about the publication of the written views and to ensure Members are made aware of the valuable

perspectives provided by Observers. He encouraged Bureau members to inform their constituencies of the publication of these written views in advance of the Bangkok meeting.

62. The Chair noted that the publication of written views from Observers, along with the encouragement for self-organization of Observers first raised at the Bureau meeting of 25 May, represented two initial approaches to strengthening Observer engagement leading up to INC-5.4. He emphasized that, while he continues to consider other approaches, the Bureau plays an important role in providing feedback and suggesting further approaches to strengthen Observer engagement.

63. The Chair noted that he will also maintain his bilateral engagements with Observers and continue to convene webinars. He further noted that he continues to work with the Secretariat to explore ways of making future Observer webinars more interactive and dynamic.

64. Acknowledging that Observers have placed importance in being able to attend informal meetings, the Chair noted that there is yet no organizational structure for Observers' participation in such meetings, unlike for Members, whose participation has been organized on a limited-participation basis, such as in the format of HOD+4. In the absence of such a structure, he invited input from the Bureau on how to explore the possibility of participation of Observers or a representative group of Observers at the informal in-person meeting to be held in January 2027, including in relation to any necessary practical arrangements or criteria for Observer participation.

65. Bureau members thanked the Chair for his efforts in strengthening engagement with Observers leading up to INC-5.4, including by making himself available to meet with Observers both bilaterally and in dedicated webinars. Bureau members further noted that consideration of Observer participation at any informal meeting would depend on the format and objectives of that meeting. To this end, the Chair was encouraged to clarify the objective of the informal meeting in January as soon as possible. The Chair was encouraged to also ensure that any approach taken to strengthen Observer participation remained fully consistent with the draft rules of procedure provisionally applied to the work of the Committee.

66. One Bureau member recalled the proposal raised at the Bureau meeting of 5 August that each regional group be permitted to nominate up to five Observer organizations to attend the informal meeting in January. The Bureau member urged the Chair and Bureau to continue to consider this proposal and emphasized that the Observer webinars convened by the Chair do not provide sufficient engagement for Observers leading up to INC-5.4.

67. In responding to comments from the Bureau, the Chair acknowledged that the draft rules of procedure can act as a guide for engaging with Observers, and previous proposals reflected in Bureau reports can provide a starting point for future discussions. He noted that any participation of Observers in informal meetings must happen in a well-structured manner and noted that the Bureau has not yet engaged in an in-depth discussion about how to structure this participation. He proposed that discussions on Observer engagement be placed earlier in the agenda for future Bureau meetings and encouraged all Bureau members to reflect on possible approaches to Observer participation in advance of the informal meeting in January.

68. No matters were raised under the agenda item 6 on 'Other matters'.

69. Under the agenda item 7 on 'Closing of the Meeting', the Chair noted that the next Bureau meeting would be held in-person in Bangkok on 26 September, and that the agenda would be circulated in due course.

70. In his closing remarks, the Chair expressed appreciation to the Bureau and thanked the Bureau members for their constructive engagement.