

Version 1 / 6 June 2025

CONCEPT NOTE

Ministerial participation during the second part of the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5.2) on Plastic Pollution

Date: 12-14 August 2025

Venue : Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

i. Background

At the closing plenary of the first part of the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5.1) – held in November/December 2024 in Busan, the Republic of Korea, to advance an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment – the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was requested to ensure ministerial participation at the resumed session (INC-5.2) to help push the agreement over the finish line.

In this context, a letter from the Executive Director, dated 15 April 2025, was sent to Ministers responsible for the environment, inviting them to attend the INC-5.2, scheduled to take place at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, from 5 to 14 August 2025. The letter informed that a series of ministerial arrangements in support of the negotiations is planned to begin on 12 August.

ii. Objective of the Ministerial participation

Based on the principles of inclusivity and transparency, the participation of Ministers and other high-level officials is intended to help resolve any outstanding issues that may benefit from high-level political engagement. Ministers may also wish to lead their delegations and engage in consultations as needed.

iii. Duration and modalities

Ministerial participation is envisioned for three days, starting on 12 August until the last day of the resumed session. Participation will consist of interactive discussions in the form of informal roundtables, offering an opportunity to advance political dialogue and foster consensus on key issues.

To ensure inclusivity and transparency, delegations whose ministers may be unable to attend, are invited to participate in the ministerial programme through their Heads of Delegation.

iv. Provisional programme

Time	Day 1: Tuesday 12 August 2025
13:00 - 15:00 Room: TBD	Informal Ministerial roundtable: State-of-play of the INC negotiations. This informal roundtable will be expected to: • Take stock of state of play of the negotiations. • Identify key remaining issues. • Reflections and considerations that may inform on next steps.
18:00	Evening Ministerial reception hosted by the Executive Director of UNEP

	Day 2: Wednesday 13 August 2025
TBD	Other arrangements to be defined as need arises from negotiations, upon consultation with the INC Chair and Bureau.
	Day 3: Thursday 14 August 2025
TBD	Other arrangements to be defined as need arises from negotiations, upon consultation with the INC Chair and Bureau.

** **N.B.** Kindly note that adjustments to the programme and associated arrangements may be undertaken, as necessary, in consultation with the Chair and Bureau.*
