

First session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC-1)

28 November – 2 December 2022 Punta del Este, Uruguay

Participants Logistics Note

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INTRODUCTION

The following is practical information provided for official participants, online as well as in person, that will attend the first session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (herein referred to as INC-1), to be held in the Punta del Este Convention and Exhibition Center, Punta del Este, Uruguay from 28 November to 2 December 2022, with regional consultations taking place on 27 November and the multi-stakeholder forum on 26 November 2022. All information regarding the meeting will be regularly updated on the [meeting page](#).

VENUE

The INC-1 will take place in the Punta del Este Convention and Exhibition Center from 28 November to 2 December 2022. The Convention Center is located approximately 8-10 minutes by car/bus from the city centre. There are no hotels or food establishments in the surroundings, thus food and beverage services will be made available in the event's facilities.

ADDRESS

Ave. Pedragosa Sierra corner Ave. Aparicio Saravia, Punta del Este, Maldonado Department, Uruguay. Contact: info@centrodeconventions.com.uy / +598 4247 7477.

REGISTRATION AND BADGING

1. Registration

All delegates are requested to register online by 31 October 2022. Information on registration can be found at <https://www.unep.org/events/conference/inter-governmental-negotiating-committee-meeting-inc-1> under the registration tab.

2. Issuance of conference badge

Access to the meeting venue is subject to the presentation of a valid conference badge. Conference badges will be issued at the entrance of the venue, upon presentation of the UN EVENT PASS resulting from the online pre-registration and a valid passport or identification card with a photograph. Issuance of conference badges will start on 25 November 2022, at 09:00. Accredited participants will have their badges valid from 26 November, including for those accredited participants registering to participate in the multi-stakeholder forum on 26 November 2022. Participants are strongly recommended to register and collect their badges from 25 to 27 November 2022 to avoid any possible congestion on the morning of the opening plenary on 28 November 2022. For security reasons, the display of conference badges is mandatory at all times to gain access to the meeting venue and meeting rooms. Any loss of a conference badge should be reported immediately to the registration counter.

3. Remote/online participation

Remote participation will be available through Interactio, a Remote Simultaneous Interpretation (RSI) platform. The link for online participants will be provided in due course.

Online access is available to all registered participants, in viewer mode only. **Full interactive on-line access with speaking rights will be provided only in the following circumstances:**

(a) In case member state delegations are not able to be represented physically in Punta del Este, online speaker access will be provided.

(b) In case a member state representative is required to self-isolate due to a positive COVID-19 testing, and the delegation is not represented in person, such delegate would have speaker access for the duration of the quarantine.

(c) In case a delegation is represented by only one delegate in Punta del Este, and sessions are held in parallel - online speaker access would be allowed and used only when contact groups are held in parallel and only one delegate will exercise speaking rights at any time.

4. In-person access to meeting rooms

Currently there are no restrictions on access to the plenary room at a given time. This is subject to revision based on the total number of participants, due space constraints, and/or the COVID-19 health conditions and requirements at the time of the meeting. In case of changes, participants will be informed through the meeting website. Access to meetings in smaller rooms might also be subject to some restrictions, depending on availability of space. In addition, it is up to Member States to decide whether some small groups meetings will be closed door sessions. The seating arrangements will follow general UN practice.

MAJOR GROUP AND STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

1. Interventions

During the plenary meetings, observers may take the floor after Member States' interventions, consistent with applicable United Nations practice. The nine UNEP Major Groups and Stakeholders will be invited to provide their statements on behalf of the stakeholder groups they represent. Oral statements by observers are at the discretion of the chair, time permitting.

2. Registration

Stakeholders who do not meet the requirements are suggested to reach out to Member States and/or organisations that meet the requirements, proposing to be taken into their delegations. The Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue that is scheduled on 26 October is open to all Stakeholders and accreditation is not a requirement.

3. Feedback

Currently, the participation framework is in line with operative paragraph 9 of UNEA resolution 5/14, which decided that participation in the OEWG and the INC is open and consistent with applicable United Nations rules. We will continue to look for ways to maximize participation through the existing procedures and welcome ideas and feedbacks from Major Groups and Stakeholders.

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER FORUM AND REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS

The multi-stakeholder forum will take place on 26 November 2022 and regional consultations will take place on 27 November 2022 in the same venue. Allocation of meeting rooms will be

announced upon arrival at the venue. The detailed agenda of the forum will be made available online at <https://www.unep.org/events/conference/multi-stakeholder-forum-inc1> soon.

INTERPRETATION

Interpretation into all United Nations official languages will be provided during all plenary sessions of the meeting and the plenary of the multi-stakeholder forum.

MEETING DOCUMENTS

Participants are strongly encouraged to read the available documents for the INC-1. The documents can be accessed on the meeting website at:

<https://www.unep.org/events/conference/inter-governmental-negotiating-committee-meeting-inc-1>

REQUEST FOR BILATERAL MEETING ROOMS

Delegations are requested to submit bilateral meeting requests **by email to francisco.vasquez@un.org**. To prevent double bookings, only the delegation initiating the bilateral meeting should submit the request. Reservations will be accepted for 20-minute durations starting on the hour and half hour. The date and time of the bilateral meeting and the name of the other delegation participating in the meeting should be specified in the request. Information about room assignments will be provided one day prior to the meeting. Depending on the programme, every effort will be made to keep a delegation's consecutive appointments in the same room. Delegates are encouraged to submit the requests as early as possible. The accommodation of late requests will be subject to the availability of space. When sending an email, the wording "**INC-1 bilats**" should be included in the subject line.

Please note that due to space limitation, we are unable to provide working rooms for national delegations.

ACCOMMODATION

A list with suggestions is provided as an annex to this note.

About 550 rooms in the catalogued hotels have been reserved for participants of the event. In this regard, it is important that such bookings are made through email or phone (instead of apps, platforms), to facilitate the sound supervision of reservations' demand and supply. In addition to these available rooms, there will be over 150 rooms available at the Solanas Punta del Este Resort.

Participants are encouraged to make their bookings as soon as possible, as there will be at least other 3 large events happening simultaneously in the city, raising the demand to well above normal at the time of meeting.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

The Government of Uruguay, through the National Immigration Office (DNM), in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNEP, will issue special individual letters to participants authorizing entry in the country without a visa. Please note that **only participants that require a visa will be issued the letter**. Participants can find the list of countries requiring visa [here](#).

Once registration is duly approved on Indico, the relevant information of the delegate will be shared by the INC Secretariat with the Government of Uruguay for issuance of the letter. The process is fully online. The **issuance of the letter will not be immediate and may take some weeks** to allow for the required checks by the competent national authorities. The individual letters authorizing entry in the country without a visa will be sent directly to participants by the Uruguayan authorities, to the email address provided by the participant upon registration.

Please note that the authorization to enter without a visa is applicable only to the national territory of Uruguay. Therefore, **participants are responsible for obtaining any transit visas required for points of transit in other jurisdictions**. Participants are recommended to have all documentation with them at the time of travel, including the meeting ticket and email confirmation. In case of need for assistance, please follow this link to access information on the consular network of Uruguay:

https://mapaconsular.mrree.gub.uy/index.php?option=com_content&view=featured&Itemid=10

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TRANSPORTATION

AIR TRAVEL:

Most participants may find it more convenient to arrive at the Montevideo airport (Carrasco International Airport) due to a wider offer of flights. A transfer/shuttle bus service will be provided to participants from Montevideo to Punta del Este by the host country. Information on the shuttles' schedules will be provided soon.

Alternatively, the Capitán de Corbeta Carlos A. Curbelo International Airport (also known as Laguna del Sauce International Airport) is located in the neighboring city of Maldonado, and receives regular commercial flights from Argentina, Brazil and Chile. As of September 2022, Azul and Aerolíneas Argentinas were the two airlines operating in the airport; it's expected more companies will be operating from now to the end of the year.

GROUND TRAVEL:

Transfer services will be available between the capital Montevideo and Punta del Este, and as well between Punta del Este city centre and the venue every day. The schedule of the shuttle to the Convention centre will be made available in this note as soon as possible. It will also be available at the hotels listed in the Annex to this note. It will also be made available at the Convention centre.

Information in this regard will be made available and constantly updated in this note.

The metropolitan area is well connected to the rest of the country by a modern transportation system that includes a port, buses, taxis, and remises. Mobility platforms working in the city include **Uber** and **Cabify**, whereas traditional cab drivers have likewise their own app (**A Punta Taxi, Voy en Taxi**), which allows passengers to order a car and pay for it through your own cell phone.

TRANSFERS' SCHEDULE AND ROUTES

Details and schedules will be further provided.

DAILY SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE ARRANGEMENTS (DSA)

The schedule and venue for DSA disbursement will be announced upon arrival at the venue.

Sponsored participants will be requested to present to the designated staff the original arrival boarding ticket and the physical travel identification document used to enter Uruguay.

PLASTIC-FREE MEETING

This meeting is plastic-free. Delegates are suggested to bring their own water bottles to the meeting. Water dispensers for refilling will be provided.

HEALTH SERVICES AND EMERGENCY NUMBERS

HOST COUNTRY HEALTH PROTOCOLS

Covid-19 vaccination: people fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are allowed to enter the country with presentation of a vaccination certificate. In this case there is no requirement for presentation of PCR test.

Proof of disease: for people who have had a positive diagnosis of COVID-19 the presentation of a PCR-RT or antigen detection test, carried out between a maximum of 90 (ninety) days and up to 10 (ten) days prior to shipment or arrival in the country is required.

People without a full vaccination scheme and that have not had a positive diagnosis of Covid in the last 90 (ninety) days: there is the requirement to present a negative SARS-CoV-2 virus detection test result (by molecular biology PCR-RT technique), collected no more than 72 (seventy-two) hours previous to the start of the trip, in a certified laboratory from the country of origin or transit. The accreditation of the negative test must be carried out prior to boarding with the corresponding airline.

Health coverage: participants must have health coverage/medical insurance in Uruguay. Therefore, participants are strongly recommended to arrange for their own travel health insurance prior to departure from their country and arrival in Uruguay. Medical costs incurred in Uruguay will be directly borne by the participant. Participants are advised to constantly check the Uruguayan official website (<https://www.gub.uy/ingresa-uruguay-durante-emergencia-sanitaria>), as information in this regard is subject to change.

The organizers will not provide participants with individual travel insurance. Participants must purchase individual travel insurance at their own cost before traveling to Uruguay.

UNEP COVID-19 PROTOCOL.

In the event of UNEP sponsored participants testing positive for COVID-19 and hence having to isolate and unable to travel back to the country of origin of the participant after the closing of the meeting, UNEP will provide daily subsistence allowance (DSA) during the days required to recover, for a maximum of **5 days** as per Uruguay's standard UN rate. Such DSA can be used to cover accommodation, meals, penalty for changing tickets and any other related costs. UNEP will not be in a position to provide any additional financial support.

UNEP will not be in a position to provide financial assistance to non-sponsored participants testing positive for COVID-19 and hence having to isolate.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Police Department and Ambulance 911 Fire department 104

THE CITY

Punta del Este is a city located on the Atlantic Coast of Uruguay, in the Maldonado Department. Its conurbation (Punta del Este+Maldonado) has a year-round population of about 135,000, but such number can easily reach to almost half a million people during summer season peaks. Located just 130 kilometers from Montevideo, it is the most popular resort and has the biggest hotel and touristic infrastructure in the country. Near the centre, at each side of the peninsula, you will find the two most famous beaches -Playa Mansa (calm beach) and Playa Brava (turbulent beach). Both feature promenades, where you can usually spot people exercising, cycling and rollerblading at all hours.

The micro-region has a humid subtropical climate, with pleasant summers (December to February) and cool winters (June to September). It never gets extremely hot, as the ocean generates a tempering effect on the temperature. During November and December, you are most likely to experience good weather daily, meaning temperatures range between 18 and 20oC (64-68oF). Rainfall is usually scattered during spring, with the possibility of sudden and intense events; but it gets all recompensated as you may witness the rebirth of flowers and the colorful revival of gardens and squares.

A good number of museums and galleries can be found in the city, each of them with its own appeal. The majestic "Casapueblo", is a masterpiece made by Uruguayan sculpture Carlos Páez Vilaró, to be his own home and workshop, and that today became a museum and a hotspot for local gatherings. You also find a large collection of modern and contemporary Latin American art at the Ralli Museum and will be charmed by the contemporary art museum of the Atchugarry Foundation, with its outdoor sculpture park and a whole new indoor gallery, opened in January 2022. Beyond this, you may find a lot of small but interesting galleries by just walking through the central streets, around the best-known main avenue, called "la Gorlero" -which houses a celebrated artisanal market and turns into a glamorous catwalk both during the day and at night.

Punta del Este is likewise the most important center of international investment for luxury businesses in Uruguay, therefore it offers a variety of renowned boutiques, luxurious wellness retreats; spa, golf, and casino resorts; deluxe apartments to rent, and boutique art hotels. Cuisine doesn't get behind and again, the best thing here is the variety of choice: you can find something for every taste, from local traditional food to elaborated dishes from all around the world¹.

ELECTRIC PLUG AND SOCKET

The residential voltage in Uruguay is 220V/50Hz. You will need a transformer in order to use your portable devices if they do not run on 220V/50Hz. Please make sure you bring one along or purchase one in Montevideo if you need it. Plug types in Uruguay are C and L.

¹ Uruguay offers a couple of tax reduction benefits for non-residents at certain tourism activities. You can check it here: <https://www.gub.uy/ministerio-turismo/comunicacion/comunicados/beneficios-para-no-residentes>.

INTERNET SERVICES

Free wireless internet access will be provided in the meeting venue.

BANKING FACILITIES, POSTAL SERVICES AND CURRENCY

The Uruguayan Peso (UYU/\$) is the official currency. Bank notes are available in the following denominations: \$2,000; \$1,000; \$500; \$200; \$100; \$50; \$20 while the coins are denominated \$50, \$10, \$5, \$2, and \$1.

Exchange rates (31 August 2022) 1 USD = 42 Uruguayan pesos; 1 Euro = 48 Uruguayan pesos.

Uruguay imposes no restrictions on the import or export of any local or foreign currency. There is only an obligation to declare sums greater than 10,000 dollars or equivalent.

There are many banks and exchange offices where you can exchange dollars, euros, and other currencies. (Banks working hours: 1pm - 5pm, Foreign exchange offices > 9am - 7pm). Some hotels also provide currency exchange service, but it should be noted that these rates are not always favorable.

ATMs can be found all throughout the country. Most places accept credit or debit cards.

CONTACT

For information about the INC-1, please contact unep-incplastic.secretariat@un.org.

ANNEX: ACCOMODATION LIST PROVIDED BY THE HOST COUNTRY

Hotel	Contact	Rooms/pricing (USD)	Breakfast included	Star rating	Distance to city's central area*	Distance to the event*	Further details
Hotel Iberia	+ 598 92667763/4244 0405 reservas@iberiahotel.com.uy	Sing/doub. \$50	Yes	2	Centre-located	13 min	
Hotel Milano	+598 4244 0039 asesor.chpe@hotmail.com	Sing. \$64-77 Doub. \$64-120	Yes	3	Centre-located	12 min	
Hotel Bonne Etoile	+598 4244 0301 hotelbonneetoile@hotmail.com	Doub. \$56-70	Yes	3	Centre-located	13 min	
Hotel Florinda	+598 4244 0022 asesor.chpe@hotmail.com	Doub. \$64-86	Yes	3	Centre-located	13 min	
Hotel Marbella	+598 4244 1814 reservas@hotelmARBELLA.com.uy	Doub. \$45-59	Yes	3	Centre-located	13 min	
Hotel Sunset Beach	+598 4248 4353 rgauna@hotelsunsetbeach.uy	Doub. \$73-120	Yes	3	Centre-located	12 min	
Hotel Camelot	+598 4248 2006/97634912 camelotpunta@yahoo.com	Sing. \$65 Doub. \$78	Yes	3	5 min	5 min	A \$7-discount for bookings before 20/Sep
Hostal de la Candelaria	+598 4222 3711 info@hostaldelacandelaria.com				8 min	12 min	
Hotel Punta Sol	+598 4224 1326 aparthotelpuntasol@gmail.com			3	8 min	12 min	
Hotel Shelton	+598 4249 0280 hotel_shelton@hotmail.com	Sing. \$34 Doub. \$34-110		3	Centre-located	12 min	
Hotel Blu Inn	+598 4248 0200 belen@bluinnpuntadeleste.uy	Doub. \$68-75	Yes	3	Centre-located	12 min	
Hotel Sea View	+598 4243 8753 reservas@hotelseaview.uy	Sing. \$74-83 Doub. \$79-168	Yes	3	7 min	5 min	
Hotel Castilla	+ 598 98235270/4244 9296 reservas@hotelcastilla.com.uy	Sing./doub. \$60 Jr Suite (2 p.) \$80 Exec. Suite (2 p.) \$120	Yes	3	Centre-located	12 min	VAT not included

Hotel Jean Clevers	+598 4249 3494 contactenos@jeanclevers.com	Doub. \$120	Yes	4	5 min	8 min	
Hotel Remanso	+598 4244 7412 reservas@hotelremanso.com.uy	Doub. \$73-117	Yes	4	Centre-located	12 min	
Hotel 2122	+598 4249 2122 gerencia@hotel2122.com	Doub. \$68-120	Yes	4	5 min	6 min	
Hotel Golden Beach	+598 42441314 german.doldan@chic.com.uy	Doub. \$81-120	Yes	4	Centre-located	12 min	
Hotel Barradas	+598 4249 4444 - german.doldan@chic.com.uy	Doub. \$89-130	Yes	4	5 min	9 min	
Hotel del Lago Golf & Art Resort	+598 4257 7444 azanatta2012@gmail.com	Doub. \$130	Yes	4	25 min	25 min	
Solanas Punta del Este Resort	+54 91133561181 eventos@gruposolanas.com	Sing. \$110 Doub. \$120 Royalmar sector (4 p.) \$160	Yes*	4	18 min	20 min	Free access to Solanas Crystal Beach. *Royalmar sector does not include breakfast.
Hotel Soleiro	solerios@solerios.com	Superior room \$119 Deluxe room \$149	Yes	4	Centre-located	10 min	Superior: city-facing. Deluxe: partial view of the sea.

*By car/bus, normal days