

Intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment

Bureau meeting

Friday, 06 September 2024

16:00- 17:00 EAT

Online

MEETING REPORT

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.

1. The Chair of the INC, Luis Vayas Valdivieso (Ecuador), welcomed members of the INC Bureau and opened the meeting.
2. The meeting was attended by the following members:
INC Chair: Mr. Luis Vayas Valdivieso (Ecuador);
African States: Ms. Juliet Kabera (Rwanda), Mr. Ndiaye Cheikh Sylla (Senegal);
Asia-Pacific States: Mr. Hiroshi Ono (Japan);
Eastern European States: Ms. Irma Gurguliani (Georgia), Mr. Harry Liiv (Estonia);
Latin American and Caribbean States: Mr. Gustavo Meza-Cuadra Velasquez (Peru);
Small-Island Developing States: Ms. Asha Challenger (Antigua and Barbuda);
Western European and Other States: Ms. Johanna Lissinger-Peitz (Sweden); Ms. Larke Williams (United States of America).
3. The Secretariat was represented by the Executive Secretary of the INC, Ms. Jyoti Mathur-Filipp, and INC Legal Adviser, Ms. Marianna Bolshakova.
4. The INC Chair opened the Bureau meeting and welcomed the Bureau, noting the successful Bureau retreat as well as the ad hoc intersessional expert group meetings in Bangkok. The Chair outlined the meeting agenda, including a recap the Bureau retreat, an update on consultations in the lead up to INC-5, and a discussion on preparations of the informal Heads of Delegations virtual meeting (HODs) on 16 September 2024.
5. The Executive Secretary welcomed the Bureau. She emphasised the effectiveness of the discussions during the intersessional ad-hoc expert groups meetings in Bangkok and noted that the exchange of views and knowledge could help prepare delegations for an effective session in Busan. While a lot of work remained, she was confident that the

Bureau's guidance will help structure the work to deliver a meaningful and effective instrument in December 2024.

6. The meeting agenda was adopted without further additions.

Agenda Item 2: Recap of the Bureau retreat on 19-20 August 2024 and update on the Chair's consultations in the lead up to INC-5.

Summary of discussions

7. The Chair reflected that the Bureau retreat has proven very useful to advance planning for INC-5. An updated version of the roadmap to INC-5 considered by the Bureau at the retreat was circulated earlier that week. The Chair also recalled that during the retreat the Secretariat clarified that while it was not in a position to support separate intersessional regional meetings, regions could decide to hold own meetings, and arrangements have been made for the pre-sessional regional consultations on 24 November 2024. Meeting rooms were also made available to regions in the afternoon of 29 September 2024 and in the mornings of 30 September 2024 and 1 October 2024 in the Nairobi UN compound in conjunction with the in-person HODs meeting.
8. The Chair also recalled that it is imperative that the Committee concludes its work at the fifth session in Busan to fulfil the mandate given. To this end, the Chair reaffirmed that he shares the vision of many countries and regions to work in a focused manner and to avoid any distractions. Several Bureau members asked that the wider UNEP information webinar on such treaty processes be postponed from its scheduled time in early September. This was conveyed to the organizers.
9. The Chair recapped his proposal to prepare and circulate a non-paper reflecting possible structure of the future instrument. The non-paper could be further developed in several iterations following rounds of consultations with Members, including through informal HODs meetings: the virtual HODs on 16 September 2024 and the in-person HODs meeting from 30 September to 01 October 2024. The elements set out in the iterations of the non-paper as informed by the consultations could then serve as a basis to structure negotiations at INC-5. The Chair sent the first iteration of the non-paper to the Bureau on 05 September 2024 for circulation to the regions, and it will be also subsequently sent to all focal points.
10. On the organization of work at INC-5, the Chair recalled that during the retreat he informed the Bureau of some initial considerations. He expected that the outcomes of the intersessional expert groups and discussions during the HODs meetings will further inform how the work can best be structured. The organization of work will be outlined in a Scenario Note to be published towards mid-October 2024.
11. Bureau members thanked the Chair for his active engagement and consultations. Members noted that the roadmap circulated to the regions has been generally well received. The Bureau members highlighted the importance of clearly framing the Chair's proposed approach during the HODs meetings. Further clarification was also

needed on issues like the linkages between the non-paper and negotiations at INC-5 and the relationship with the compiled text from INC-4.

12. The Chair recalled that at the retreat there were divergent views on ministerial participation in INC-5. Some Bureau members considered that participation of ministers could distract from negotiations and impact the capacity of smaller delegations. Other members noted that political leadership proved very useful in other MEA processes. The Chair clarified that no separate high-level event was planned at INC-5. He noted that while ministers could always decide to attend as heads of delegation, he had heard concerns about ministerial participation at INC-5, which he understood had been conveyed to the UNEP organisers and noted that he had a conversation with the Executive Director of UNEP on this issue, to whom he had conveyed the same message.

Agenda Item 3: Preparations for the informal virtual meeting at the Head of Delegations level on 16 September 2024.

13. The Chair outlined that the HODs virtual meeting on 16 September 2024 would be an important opportunity for Members to discuss the proposed approach and identify elements to be reflected in the treaty and details to be developed between the DipCon and COP-1. He intended to circulate a set of guiding questions to help structure the discussions.
14. The Executive Secretary provided logistical updates on the HODs. A notification inviting members of the Committee to register for the online HODs was circulated on 21 August 2024. As on 6 September, 114 registrations from 69 countries were received. The Secretariat was planning to circulate a reminder for registration, together with the meeting agenda, on Monday, 9 September 2024. Participants should register by the Friday, 13 September 2024 to ensure they receive invitations with the link to the Interactio platform.
15. For the in-person HODs meeting on 30 September and 01 October 2024, 168 registrations from 101 countries were received, along with 158 applications for travel support. Due to internal deadlines, no further applications for travel support could be processed. The Secretariat would circulate a reminder for registration ahead of the 15 September 2024 deadline along with a brief logistical information note. Due to the informal nature of the meeting, the sessions would be held in English only. The Secretariat informed each region that rooms will be available to them and would be grateful if the groups could inform it on the planned time for their meetings.
16. The Bureau thanked the Chair and the Secretariat. It discussed some of the possible questions to guide the discussions during the online meeting of the HODs. The Bureau members considered that the meeting should focus on elements to be included in the instrument and on identification of details that could be decided at a later stage. The

Chair expressed his expectation that the meeting would allow exchanges among delegations to help better understanding and to enable him to develop the non-paper in more detail in advance of the in-person HODs meeting.

Agenda Item 4: Other matters

17. The next Bureau meeting will be held on Thursday, 12 September 2024, followed by an in-person meeting on 02 October 2024.

Discussion outcomes and follow-up

INC Chair to share guiding questions with the Bureau and HODs focal points.

Agenda Item 5: Closing of the meeting.

18. The meeting closed at 17:50.