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WIMUN SINGAPORE 2025

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

MARINE PLASTIC LITTER AND MICROPLASTICS

Simulation: UN Environment Assembly

Welcome to WIMUN Singapore 2025,

We are very pleased to introduce you to the most authentic simulation of the United Nations in the world; and hope to contribute to your understanding of the Organisation, its mandate, and its critical role in global affairs.

Through a series of pre-conference webinars that will be offered and documents – like this resource guide – we aim to educate you not only about the global issues on the UN agenda, but also about the ways and means through which those topics are discussed, debated and negotiated by real UN diplomats.

This resource guide will provide you with a head start in doing research to gain a deeper understanding of the global issue that you will be discussing and the actions that the government you have been assigned recommends that the international community should take to address this issue. To make the research process a bit easier, the resource guide has been divided into sections and sub-sections to assist you in researching these two components. We strongly recommend you to give a careful look through the sources listed below so that the interaction with your peers is as exciting as possible.

We wish you all the very best in this journey of learning!

Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics

Every year, 19-23 million tonnes of plastic waste enter our lakes, rivers, and seas, according to the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). This surge in plastic pollution poses a severe threat to marine life, ecosystems, human health, and global economies, particularly those reliant on tourism and fishing industries. Approximately 80% of this marine pollution originates on land, primarily due to single-use plastics, poor waste management, and insufficient recycling infrastructure.

Marine plastic pollution arises from various sources, including land-based waste, maritime activities, and industrial processes. These plastics enter the ocean through improper waste disposal, littering, and mismanaged industrial discharges, becoming part of the larger crisis of marine pollution.

The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities defines marine litter as "any persistent, manufactured, or processed solid material discarded, disposed of, or abandoned in the marine and coastal environment." Microplastics, which are plastic fragments smaller than 5 mm, come from both the degradation of larger plastic debris and specific products like cosmetics and synthetic textiles.

The impact on marine life is devastating. Plastics entangle wildlife, are ingested by marine species, and introduce toxic substances into the food chain, threatening biodiversity and human health. These issues underscore the urgent need for international cooperation to reduce plastic production, improve waste management, and clean up existing marine litter.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development identifies Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14.1 as a target for reducing marine pollution. It aims to "prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, particularly from land-based activities, by 2025," including addressing marine debris and nutrient pollution. Other goals, like SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production, emphasize the efficient use of resources and the adoption of sustainable practices.

In 2019, the UN Environment Assembly passed a resolution (UNEP/EA.4/Res.6) stressing the need for enhanced global coordination and cooperation in combating marine litter and microplastics. This resolution led to the creation of a Task Team under the Environment Management Group (EMG), which includes key organizations like the FAO, UNEP, UNESCO, WHO, and the World Bank. The Task Team's mission is to strengthen the UN system's support for member states in addressing the marine litter crisis through collaborative and innovative approaches.

Ongoing negotiations on an international treaty to combat plastic pollution within the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) are currently taking place through the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC), which was tasked with developing a legally binding agreement aimed at addressing plastic pollution throughout its entire lifecycle—from production to disposal.

Summary of important information and main issues associated with Marine Plastics Litter and Microplastics

1. Global Scope and Impact of Marine Plastic Pollution

- **Scale of the Problem:** Plastic pollution is a global crisis, with 8 million tons of plastic entering the oceans annually.
- **Impact on Marine Life:** Plastic litter, particularly large debris like fishing nets and plastic bags, entangles marine species, while microplastics are ingested by fish, birds, and other wildlife, leading to injury, death, and the disruption of ecosystems.
- **Human Health Concerns:** Microplastics can enter the food chain through fish and seafood consumption, potentially leading to human health risks. It can also be inhaled when tiny plastic particles are released into the air from the wear and tear of plastic materials in tires, road surfaces, and synthetic clothing.
- **Economic Impact:** Marine plastic pollution affects industries like fishing due to the increasing presence of microplastics in the food chain, tourism when coastal areas and beaches contaminated with plastic waste can discourage tourism, a major economic driver in many regions, and shipping when large plastic debris can become entangled in propellers or clog engines causing accidents or delays in shipping routes, which result in costing the global economy billions of dollars annually due to lost revenue, cleanup costs, and damage to marine infrastructure.

2. Sources and Types of Plastic Pollution

- **Land-Based Sources:** The majority of marine plastic litter originates from land-based sources, including stormwater runoff that carries plastic litter, such as bags, bottles, and packaging materials, into storm drains and eventually into rivers, lakes, and oceans. Inadequate waste collection and recycling systems, leakage from landfills, littering and improper disposal by consumers.
- **Ocean-Based Sources:** Abandoned, lost, or discarded fishing gear (ghost gear) is a significant source of marine plastic pollution.
- **Single-Use Plastics:** A large portion of marine litter consists of single-use plastics (e.g., plastic bags, straws, bottles), which are used briefly and then discarded. Addressing the challenge of single-use plastics is critical to reducing plastic waste entering the ocean.
- **Microplastics:** These are tiny plastic particles (less than 5mm in size) that can come from a variety of sources, including textiles, cosmetics, and the breakdown of larger plastics. Primary microplastics are manufactured (like microbeads), while secondary microplastics are formed from the degradation of larger items.

Summary of important information and main issues (cont.)

3. International Frameworks and Agreements

- **UN Environment Assembly (UNEA):** Review UNEA resolutions on marine plastic litter and microplastics, such as Resolution 4/6 on "Marine plastic litter and microplastics," which emphasizes strengthening global governance to address this issue.
- **Global Partnerships:** Initiatives like the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) aim to foster collaboration among governments, NGOs, industry, and other stakeholders to reduce plastic waste.
- **International Treaties:** Explore existing frameworks such as the MARPOL Convention (on preventing pollution from ships) and ongoing negotiations on an international treaty to combat plastic pollution within the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA). This process is taking place through the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC), which was tasked with developing a legally binding agreement aimed at addressing plastic pollution throughout its entire lifecycle— from production to disposal.
- **Regional Action Plans:** Several regions, such as the European Union, have implemented action plans to reduce marine litter. Consider ways in which regional cooperation could complement global action.

4. Waste Management and Recycling Infrastructure

- **Waste Management Deficiencies:** Poor waste management infrastructure, particularly in developing countries that depend on an informal waste sector which relies on scavengers and waste pickers that result in large volumes of waste often ending up in open dumpsites
- Lack of recycling facilities, landfill mismanagement, and illegal dumping exacerbate the problem.
- **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR):** EPR holds manufacturers responsible for the entire lifecycle of their plastic products, including post-consumer waste. Many countries are implementing EPR schemes, which hold manufacturers accountable for the entire lifecycle of their products, including their disposal. This forces businesses, especially those in consumer goods and packaging, to rethink product design, reduce single-use plastics, and improve recyclability
- **Recycling and Circular Economy:** While recycling has been promoted as a solution, only a small percentage of plastic waste is recycled globally. Circular economy models, which emphasize reducing, reusing, and redesigning products, are increasingly seen as a sustainable solution to plastic waste. Explore the different ways products are being redesigned to reduce plastic pollution that include developing bioplastics, designing containers that can be reused for shipping merchandise, designing products that use less plastic, making it easier to recycle plastic products,

Summary of important information and main issues (cont.)

5. Innovation and Technological Solutions

- **Plastic Alternatives:** There is ongoing research into biodegradable plastics, compostable materials, and plastic alternatives that could replace traditional plastics.
- **Cleanup Technologies:** Various organizations are working on ocean cleanup technologies (e.g., The Ocean Cleanup project), but these are still limited in scope. How feasible are these technologies as a supplement to prevention strategies.
- **Microplastic Capture:** Technologies aimed at capturing microplastics from wastewater, stormwater, and industrial effluents are in development. These could prevent microplastics from entering the oceans.

6. Regulatory and Policy Approaches

- **Plastic Bans and Regulations:** Many countries have implemented bans on single-use plastics, such as plastic bags, straws, and polystyrene containers. How effective are these bans?
- **Taxes and Levies:** Some countries impose taxes or levies on plastic products to discourage their use and raise funds for environmental initiatives. For example, the plastic bag levy in Ireland dramatically reduced plastic bag usage.
- **National Action Plans:** Some countries have adopted national action plans to address marine plastic pollution through a combination of legislation, public awareness campaigns, and private sector engagement to finance new waste management infrastructure and innovative recycling technologies, negotiate regulations and agree on incentives to encourage a shift to innovative product redesign and sustainable packaging .and test new approaches to plastic waste reduction.

7. Public Awareness and Behavioral Change

- **Raising Awareness:** Public awareness campaigns play a crucial role in reducing plastic consumption and promoting sustainable alternatives.
- **Consumer Behavior:** Shifting consumer behavior toward sustainable consumption and recycling practices is key to reducing plastic pollution. How can policy and awareness campaigns incentivize responsible consumption?

Summary of important information and main issues (cont.)

8. Economic and Social Considerations

- **Impact on Developing Countries:** Many developing countries face the brunt of plastic waste, either from inadequate waste management systems or due to being destinations for exported plastic waste. How can international cooperation ensure that solutions do not disproportionately burden these countries.
- **Industry and Economy:** The plastic industry is a major global economic force, and solutions need to consider what regulations could move businesses, especially in sectors like packaging, manufacturing, and consumer goods to reduce plastic.
- **Inequality and Environmental Justice:** The negative impacts of plastic pollution often disproportionately affect vulnerable communities, including low-income coastal populations and indigenous communities. How can the principles of environmental justice be used to address plastic pollution?

9. Financing and International Cooperation

- **Funding Mechanisms:** Addressing marine plastic pollution requires substantial financial investment in waste management infrastructure, research, and innovation. What funding mechanisms or public-private partnerships could be established to provide the necessary funds to improve waste management infrastructure and invest in research and innovation? Examine how the Green Climate Fund (which was primarily established to support projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance climate resilience in developing countries) could be used to combat plastic pollution.
- **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** schemes require companies that manufacture or sell products with plastic packaging to pay for the collection, sorting, recycling, or safe disposal of their waste. These funds can then be invested in waste management infrastructure.
- **Green Bonds, plastic taxes and levies, Global Development Grants** from international development organizations That offer grants or low-interest loans to countries or cities for the development of waste management infrastructure and **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** initiative are a few other funding mechanisms that can contribute to combating plastic pollution.
- **International Cooperation:** Global collaboration is essential because plastic pollution crosses borders, making it a transboundary issue. Consider ways the international community can harmonize policies and share best practices to address plastic pollution.

Summary of important information and main issues (cont.)

10. Monitoring and Data Collection

- **Tracking Plastic Flows:** Accurate data on the amount, type, and sources of plastic waste entering the oceans is crucial for formulating effective policies. How can data collection, monitoring, and reporting mechanisms be improved to help track progress and identify priority areas?
- **Research and Innovation:** Ongoing research into the effects of microplastics on ecosystems, marine life, and human health is critical to better understand and address this issue.

11. Effective solutions to combating marine plastic litter and microplastics

- **Effective solutions** will require a mix of regulatory measures, technological innovation, international cooperation, and public awareness, all framed within the larger context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In a historic decision at the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) in March 2022, Member States agreed to negotiate an international legally binding instrument (ILBI) on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, setting an ambitious timeline to conclude negotiations in 2024. The first intergovernmental negotiating meeting (INC-1) took place in Punta del Este, Uruguay. During the meeting, more than 145 countries publicly supported establishing strong global rules to stop plastic pollution. The most recent session of the UN Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5) where 3,300 delegates from more than 170 nations and observers from more than 440 organizations met in Busan, Republic of Korea to take part in meetings, ended on 1 December 2024 without a legally binding global plastics treaty. Delegates agreed to adjourn and reconvene in 2025 for a resumed session, called INC-5.2.

Sessions and Meetings

2022-2024

Summary: You can find complete records of every INC meeting from the first Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group in 2022 to INC-5 that was just completed in the Republic of Korea in December 2024. They contain an overview of each session, written statements, official document, in-session documents, links to webcasts and much more. Make sure to look at the summary report of each INC that is usually the last document listed under "Working Document".

Summary report (25 November – 1 December 2024) of 5th Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to Develop an International Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution, Including in the Marine Environment (INC-5)

2024

Summary: Provides a brief summary of INC along with its origins, key turning points over the course of discussions starting in 2018 to the present.

Plastic pollution and marine litter

2024

Summary: This link describes the importance of the topic and enlists the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and the activities of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) to address marine plastic litter and microplastics.

Addressing marine litter and microplastics UN system-wide contributions

2022

Summary: This report is a first step towards expanding UN system-wide collaboration and expertise through a more integrated inter-agency approach. It has detailed information on the complexity of the issue. It describes the relation with SDGs and all the UN entities involved in addressing the issue.

[Report of the 49th session of GESAMP](#)

2022

Summary: This link has the report of the 49th session of the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP).

[Ocean plastic pollution an overview: data and statistics](#)

2022

Summary: This link has key facts and Statistics on plastic pollution.

[Task Team on Marine Litter and Microplastics](#)

2021

Summary: This link includes the meetings the Task Team on Marine Litter and Microplastics has held.

[STRATEGY TO ADDRESS MARINE PLASTIC LITTER FROM SHIPS](#)

2021

Summary: This link has the International Maritime Organization (IMO) report on its strategy to strengthen the international framework and compliance with the relevant IMO instruments, endeavoring to achieve zero plastic waste discharges to sea from ships by 2025.

[Marine litter](#)

2021

Summary: This link describes the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Strategy to address marine plastic litter from ships and to achieve zero plastic waste discharges from ships by 2025 and what the IMO has done so far to combat marine plastic litter. It also provides a brief overview of what marine litter is, the problems it has caused as well as links to studies and reports on this issue.

[Tackling marine litter and microplastics with the Dr Fridtjof Nansen](#) **2021**

Summary: The EAF-Nansen Programme investigates the extent and impact of marine plastic pollution using the research vessel Dr Fridtjof Nansen. They aim to understand and mitigate the threats posed by marine litter and microplastics to marine biodiversity and local communities.

[FAO work on Plastics Management and Pollution](#) **2021**

Summary: This link describes the work the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has done to tackle marine litter and plastic pollution.

[Reducing Plastic Leakage into the Environment in Africa](#) **2021**

Summary: A United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) study explores sustainable alternatives to plastics, innovative packaging, and recycling technologies suitable for the African market, aiming to reduce environmental plastic leakage.

[Sources, Fate and Effects of plastics and micro-plastics in the marine environment](#) **2021**

Summary: The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO-IOC) WG 40's aims to provide evidence-based interventions and improve global representation in its assessments and recommendations on marine litter. This link describes how its work is divided.

[Proceedings of the GESAMP International Workshop on assessing the risks associated with plastics and microplastics in the marine environment](#)

2020

Summary: This document focuses on the sources, impacts, and mitigation strategies of marine litter and plastic pollution. It also highlights the role of education, research, and innovation in developing sustainable solutions to reduce plastic waste and promote a circular economy.

[Addressing the challenge of Marine Plastic Litter using Circular Economy methods](#)

2019

Summary: This Executive Summary precedes a short background on the interest of G20 in the marine plastic litter, followed by a discussion on the application of Circular Economy practices to the short-lived, fast moving plastic products and packaging.

[Combating marine plastic litter and microplastics: An assessment of the effectiveness of relevant international, regional and subregional governance strategies and approaches](#)

2018

Summary: This link has an assessment including a mapping study that provides insight into the current state of the governance strategies and approaches at the international, regional and sub-regional levels within the context of marine plastic litter and microplastics and identifies gaps. As well as a discussion on policy gaps and providing policy options.

[Ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics](#)

2018

Summary: This link contains a summary of all the sessions the ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics has had since its establishment.

[Combating marine plastic litter and microplastics SUMMARY FOR POLICYMAKERS](#)

2018

Summary: This link has an assessment of the effectiveness of relevant international, regional and subregional governance strategies and approaches.

[Our planet is choking on plastic](#)

2018

Summary: This link contains a visual summary of plastic pollution made by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). It also describes when this problem started, annual plastic emissions by region and recommended actions.

[THE LONDON PROTOCOL](#)

2016

Summary: The London Protocol has been protecting the oceans from indiscriminate dumping of wastes and other matter. This link briefly describes its regulations and progress since its implementation.

Statements

First Part of the Fifth Session (INC-5.1):

2024

Written statements

Summary: Provides copies of Opening and Closing statements, statements on behalf of Groups of States and statements of individual Member States. Very important resources for understanding the position of Member States on plastic pollution. Also contains link to official and in-session documents.

Opening statements at 5th session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5)

2024

Summary: This is where you can find the actual statements made by Member States in their national capacity and on behalf of Groups of States on the draft treaty that is being negotiated to stop plastic pollution at 5th session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5) held in the Republic of Korea from November 25 to December 1, 2024.

Summary report (25 November -

2024

1 December 2024) 5th Session of the

Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to Develop an International Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution, Including in the Marine Environment (INC-5)

Summary: This website managed by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) provides a detailed summary of the discussions that took place in the Republic of Korea during the 5th Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5). The report also includes a brief history of the INC and key milestones in its evolution. (cont.)

Statements (cont.)

Summary report (cont.)

2024

The following countries made comments on the draft treaty that was being negotiated during INC-5: Saudi Arabia (on behalf of the Arab Group), Ghana (on behalf of the African Group), Uganda, Republic of Korea, Rwanda (on behalf of 85 countries), Uruguay (on behalf of GRULAC), Iran, India, Moldova (on behalf of Georgia and Ukraine), Mexico (on behalf of 95 countries), Mali, Nigeria, EU, Kuwait (on behalf of Liked-Minded Countries), France, China, Norway, Indonesia, Panama, Russian Federation, Iraq, Canada (on behalf of the Host Countries Alliance), Cuba, Grenada, Samoa (on behalf of AOSIS), Japan, Vanuatu (on behalf of Pacific SIDS), Fiji, Kenya, Jamaica, Armenia, Tonga, UK, Peru, Kazakhstan, South Africa, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Switzerland, Algeria, Bahrain, Türkiye, Philippines, Malaysia, Egypt, Brazil, Honduras, Congo, New Zealand, Ethiopia, Azerbaijan, Ecuador, Qatar, Singapore, Kyrgyzstan, Viet Nam, Colombia, Trinidad And Tobago, Togo, Nepal, Bhutan, The Gambia [Note: Countries listed in red have been assigned to delegates participating in this simulation.]

Member States discussed a range of issues that included: 1) definitions, 2) plastic products, 3) exemptions, 4) plastic product design, 5) sustainable production, 6) prevent, reduce, and, where possible, eliminate releases and emissions to the atmosphere from plastics and chemicals of concern used in plastics, 7) plastic waste management, 8) existing plastic pollution, 9) just transition, 10) financing mechanism, Capacity building, technical assistance and technology transfer, including international cooperation, 11) national plans, 12) reporting, 13) monitoring of progress and effectiveness evaluation, 14) information exchange, 15) awareness raising, education and research, 16) impact of plastic pollution on health, and 17) subsidiary bodies. The report outlines proposals made in each of these areas and summarizes the comments and reactions to these ideas.

Statements (cont.)

Opening statements at 4th session of the **2024** Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-4)

Summary: This is where you can find the actual statements made by Member States in their national capacity and on behalf of Groups of States on the draft treaty that is being negotiated to stop plastic pollution at 4th session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-4) held in Canada from April 23–29, 2024.

Summary report (23–29 April 2024) 4th Session **2024** of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to Develop an International Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution, Including in the Marine Environment (INC-4)

Summary: On 23 April 2024, the following countries (plus one non-Member Observer State) met in Canada and made comments on the Revised Draft Text of the treaty that had been compiled by the INC Secretariat based on the outcomes of the three contact groups established at INC-3: Palestine (on behalf of the Asia Pacific Group), Uruguay (on behalf of GRULAC), Ghana (on behalf of the African Group), Samoa (on behalf of AOSIS), EU (on behalf of Moldova, Georgia, and Ukraine), Vanuatu (on behalf of Pacific SIDS), Indonesia (on behalf of Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia), Malawi (on behalf of High Ambition Coalition), Kuwait (on behalf of Like-Minded Countries), Qatar (on behalf of the Gulf Cooperation Council), Iran, Brazil, Rwanda, Ukraine, Philippines, Guatemala, Cuba, Türkiye, Iraq, China, Bangladesh, Russian Federation, Argentina, India, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Kenya. (cont.)

Statements (cont.)

Summary report (cont.)

2024

On 26 April 2024, Member States discussed a range of issues that included: 1) regulation of fishing gear containing plastic, 2) problematic and avoidable plastic products, 3) micro- and nanoplastics, 4) waste management, 5) transboundary movement of [non-hazardous] plastic waste, 6) existing plastic pollution with an emphasis on the discharge of plastic pollution on developing countries, 7) financing, 8) international cooperation, 9) information exchange, 10) awareness raising, education and research, 11) impact of plastic pollution on health, and 12) the need for a limited number of subsidiary bodies. The report outlines proposals made in each of these areas and summarizes the comments and reactions to these ideas.

Opening statements at 2nd session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-3)

2023

Summary: This is where you can find the actual statements made by Member States in their national capacity and on behalf of Groups of States on the draft treaty that is being negotiated to stop plastic pollution at 3e4rd session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-3) held in Nairobi, Kenya from November 13–19, 2023.

Opening statements at 2nd session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-2)

2023

Summary: This is where you can find the actual statements made by Member States in their national capacity and on behalf of Groups of States on the draft treaty that is being negotiated to stop plastic pollution at 2nd session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-2) held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France from May 29 to June 2, 2023.

Statements (cont.)

Summary report (29 May – 2 June 2023) 2nd Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to Develop an International Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution, Including in the Marine Environment (INC-2) **2023**

Summary: INC-2 was held at the headquarters of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris, France, from 29 May – 2 June 2023. It brought together over 1,656 participants from 169 countries and the EU, and over 300 observer organizations. The report includes a brief history of the INC, key milestones and summaries of statements by key regional and political groups as well as an excellent summary of deliberations in preparation for the International Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution. These are countries that made statements at 2nd Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to Develop an International Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution, Including in the Marine Environment (INC-2) on 31 May 2023: Costa Rica (on behalf of GRULAC), Samoa (on behalf of AOSIS), Ghana (on behalf of African Group), Philippines (on behalf of Asia-Pacific States), Malaysia (on behalf of Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia), Palau (on behalf of Pacific SIDS), Mauritius (on behalf of High Ambition Coalition), Jordan, Indonesia, Pakistan, South Africa, Nigeria, Japan (on behalf of G7), United States, Saudi Arabia, Armenia, Bahrain, Iran, Republic Of Korea, China, Angola, Switzerland, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Russian Federation, Canada, Qatar, India, Thailand, Norway, Bangladesh, Palestine, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Zambia, Iceland, UK, Gambia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Australia, Türkiye, New Zealand, Gabon, Zimbabwe, Israel, Togo, Somalia, Monaco, Oman, Guinea, Comoros, Democratic Republic Of The Congo, Tanzania, Morocco, Eswatini, Tunisia, Singapore, Fiji. [Note: Countries listed in red have been assigned to delegates participating in this simulation.]

Statements (cont.)

Summary report 1 December 2022 1st Session **2022** of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC-1)

Summary: This report provides a summary of statements made during the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument (ILBI) on plastic pollution.

High Ambition Coalition Member States Joint **2022** Statement

Summary: The High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People (HAC for N&P) is an intergovernmental group of 119 countries united by a shared ambition to implement the global goal of effectively conserving and managing at least 30 percent of the world's land and ocean by 2030. This is a statement made by HAC at the first meeting of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to develop a legally binding instrument on plastic pollution.

U.S. National Statement for INC-1 on Plastic **2022** Pollution

Summary: Official record of the United States' position on negotiating a legally-binding agreement on plastic pollution.

Statements (cont.)

U.S. UN Environment Assembly 5.2 National Statement

2022

Summary: The United States' statement at UNEA 5.2 that includes comments about plastic pollution.

National Statement by Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Keriako Tobiko, during opening session of the UNEA 5.2 on March 2022

2022

Summary: Statement provides a good example of Kenya's position on this topic.

National Statement by Fiji's Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment during opening session of the UNEA 5.2 on March 2022

2022

Summary: Statement delivered on behalf of Fiji on "Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals" that includes a short statement on Fiji's position on marine litter and plastic pollution.

Statement by the head of the delegation of the Russian Federation at the plenary of the UN Water Conference

2022

Summary: Official statement by the Russian Federation at the UN Water Conference that includes comments about plastic pollution.

Statements (cont.)

Statement by Australia at the First Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an internationally legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment **2022**

Summary: Official statement by Australia at the first session of the INC-1.

Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution - Summary report, 1–2 September 2021 **2021**

Summary: Another summary report published by Earth Negotiations Bulletin, a division of the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). It contains summaries of statements of many countries that have been assigned for the UNEA simulation.

Summary of the 4th Meeting of the Ad-hoc Open-ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics - Summary report, 9–13 November 2020 **2020**

Summary: This summary report is published by Earth Negotiations Bulletin, a division of the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). It contains summaries of statements of many countries that have been assigned for the UNEA simulation.

National Statement Vice-Minister for Global Environmental Affairs, Japan **2020**

Summary: Official statement by Japan at UNEA that includes comments about plastic pollution.

Statements (cont.)

Remarks at the workshop on the launching **2020** and implementation of the National Action Plan on marine litter management until 2030

Summary: Remarks delivered by UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Viet Nam on the implementation of Viet Nam's National Action Plan on marine litter management.

Documents

New guidelines for a common approach to **2023** tackle marine litter

Summary: This new edition of the Guidance on Monitoring of Marine Litter in European Seas, first published in 2013 provides recommendations on how to sample, analyse and record marine litter with the aim to make the data comparable and usable across countries. It also gives advice on how to monitor litter objects and particles of different sizes on the coastline, seafloor, floating on the surface, and ingested by animals. It also recommends how to assess the presence of organisms wrapped or trapped in marine litter such as abandoned fishing gear.

Documents (cont.)

[G20 Report on Actions Against Marine Plastic Litter Fifth Information Sharing based on the G20 Implementation Framework 2023](#) **2023**

Summary: This report is a compilation of information, voluntarily shared by the 17 G20 members, 13 invited countries, and 10 international organizations about their policies and measures undertaken to address the global issue of marine litter.

[U.S. Actions to Address Plastic Pollution: Fact Sheet](#) **2022**

Summary: This U.S. Government website provides key highlights of their programs to reduce plastic pollution.

[National Action Strategy addressing marine litter in Singapore](#) **2020**

Summary: This National Plan outlines Singapore's strategy to reduce land-based and sea-base sources of marine litter, its plan to develop a circular economy and actively contribute to regional and international efforts to raise awareness and tackle the global problem of marine litter pollution given the transboundary nature of marine litter.

Statements

STATEMENT FROM FRIENDS OF OCEAN ACTION 2023

Summary: Members of Friends of Ocean Action have endorsed a statement calling for ambitious action in 2023.

AOSIS Statement on Third Session of the 2023 Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) toward an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment

Summary: Statement from AOSIS that emphasizes the need for adequate, sustainable, and timely financial resources to support developing countries, particularly Small Island Developing States (SIDS), in addressing plastic pollution.

AOSIS addresses harmful impact of plastic 2022 pollution at Oceans Conference

Summary: The link discusses the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) addressing the harmful impact of plastic pollution at an oceans conference. AOSIS emphasizes the need for urgent global action to mitigate marine litter and plastic pollution, highlighting their disproportionate impact on small island developing states (SIDS).

Documents

ADDRESSING POLLUTION FROM SINGLE-USE PLASTIC PRODUCTS: A LIFE CYCLE APPROACH KEY MESSAGES FOR TOURISM BUSINESSES 2021

Summary: Summarises, from the perspective of the tourism sector, the key findings of the Life Cycle Initiative's report series and summary report. It aims to educate tourism stakeholders and provide evidence-based guidance for decision-making to address pollution from single use plastic products.

FROM POLLUTION TO SOLUTION A GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF MARINE LITTER AND PLASTIC POLLUTION 2021

Summary: Defines key terms in Glossary section and summarizes key points to take into consideration for tackling plastic pollution in Key findings section.

STUDY ON PLASTIC VALUE CHAIN IN EGYPT 2021

Summary: This study carried out local studies in Egypt to collect information on current status of single-use plastic products value chain.

Can I Recycle This? 2020

Summary: This report provides a global mapping and assessment of standards, labels and claims on plastic packaging. The findings of this report map the current landscape of consumer information, highlighting good practices and areas where action should be taken.

Political Groups

[G20 Report on Actions Against Marine Plastic Litter Fifth Information Sharing based on the G20 Implementation Framework 2023](#) **2023**

Summary: This report is a compilation of information, voluntarily shared by the G20 members, invited/other countries and international organizations sharing the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision on policies and measures undertaken to address the global issue of marine litter.

[G7 innovation challenge to address marine plastic litter](#) **2019**

Summary: Description of G7 plastic initiatives which members committed to sharing information about their activities in support of this Challenge through the G7 Alliance on Resource Efficiency.

[Plastic in the ocean: the facts, effects and new EU rules](#) **2018**

Summary: Key facts about plastic in the ocean, its impact and how the EU is acting to reduce plastic litter in the seas.

Regional Groups

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY – SOLUTION TO PLASTIC POLLUTION

2023

Summary: This link describes CARICOM's commitment to addressing plastic pollution through regional strategies, bans on single-use plastics, and support for sustainable development through initiatives like the "Clean Seas Caribbean" campaign.

Managing Marine Plastic Debris in Asia and the Pacific

2022

Summary: This report describes the situation in Asia and the Pacific and the region's efforts.

ASEAN Regional Action Plan for COMBATING MARINE DEBRIS in the ASEAN Member States (2021- 2025)

2021

Summary: This link describes the ASEAN region's efforts to combat marine debris, culminating in the adoption of the ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris and the Regional Action Plan.

PLASTIC AND MICROPLASTICS: UNDERSTANDING AND MANAGING MARINE LITTER IN THE YELLOW SEA

2020

Summary: This report describes the situation in Asia and the Pacific and the region's efforts.

Africa

[Africa Region – Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter Law and Policy](#)

2021

Summary: This link highlights the increasing concern of plastic pollution and marine litter in Africa. It examines the existing legislative frameworks and policies across 13 African nations aimed at mitigating plastic pollution. It also includes Guidelines for the Development of Legislation and Policies on Marine Litter in Africa published by UNEP and WIOMSA.

[Africa Marine Waste Network](#)

2016

Summary: This link guides you to the Africa Marine Waste Network (AMWN) which aims to prevent marine pollution in Africa by addressing waste at its source on land.

Asia

[Asia Waste Management Outlook](#)

2017

Summary: This document provides a comprehensive overview of the current waste management status in Asia. It includes discussions on advanced topics, case studies, and future prospects over the medium term.

Mediterranean Region

[The Marine Litter MED II Project \(2020-2023\)](#) **2020**

Summary: This link describes the Marine Litter MED II project (2020-2023) which aims to reduce and prevent marine litter in the Mediterranean. It supports the implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management, focusing on southern Mediterranean countries like Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia.

Latin America and the Caribbean

[Blue Awakening as Latin American and Caribbean states say no to plastic](#) **2023**

Summary: Article provides a summary of what 13 countries in the region are doing to tackle plastic pollution.

[Policies, Regulations and Strategies in Latin America and the Caribbean to Prevent Marine Litter and Plastic Waste: Information Report to the XXII LAC Forum of Ministers of Environment UNEP – Latin America and the Caribbean Office.](#) **2021**

Summary: This report represents an initial attempt to provide member states and decision makers with an overview of existing and on-going regional, national, and local efforts in the LAC region, that contribute to the adoption of measures to prevent, reduce, and control marine litter and plastic pollution.

Inside INC-5

2024

Summary: Provides brief highlights of what occurred every day during the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5) with links to more in-depth reports on the proceedings that took place each day.

INC-5 concludes without global agreement on plastics treaty

2024

Summary: The fifth Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5) on Plastics Pollution concluded without reaching a global agreement on a plastics treaty. Key issues such as legally binding commitments, financing mechanisms, and balancing national interests remain unresolved. Developing and developed nations continue to have differing views on the treaty's scope, with disagreements over setting specific targets versus maintaining flexibility. The meeting highlighted the challenges of addressing the full lifecycle of plastics, including production, use, and disposal. Discussions will continue in subsequent sessions to overcome these hurdles and work toward a comprehensive and enforceable plastics treaty.

Plastics Treaty Must Remain Ambitious — We Can't Give Up Now

2024

Summary: Delegates at the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5) failed to reach a final agreement on a global plastic pollution treaty. Talks will resume in 2025. While most countries supported a comprehensive approach covering the full plastic lifecycle, key oil-producing nations resisted stronger measures. Negotiations will continue based on the Chair's draft text, which includes both ambitious and weaker options. Despite progress, major disagreements remain, and a final deal is still uncertain.

What to Expect at Plastics INC-5

2024

Summary: This article covers several important topics: 1) What is the state of the planet's plastic pollution problem? 2) What is the treaty process that countries are working through to tackle plastic pollution? 3) What is the dispute between countries on tackling "upstream plastics" versus "downstream plastics"? 4) Finance is usually a defining issue in environmental negotiations. How is it turning up in the plastics pollution INC process? 5) How involved is industry in these negotiations?

Why Trade Matters in the Plastic-Pollution Treaty Negotiations

2024

Summary: This article explores the intersection of trade and environmental policy in the context of the upcoming global treaty to end plastic pollution by 2040. It highlights the importance of integrating trade considerations—such as controls on plastic production and consumption, product design, and global standards—into the treaty negotiations led by the United Nations Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC). Key challenges include preventing production "leakage" to non-participating countries, addressing both supply- and demand-side issues, and ensuring that trade rules under the World Trade Organization (WTO) are respected. Financing is another major focus, as implementing effective plastic waste management and transitioning to sustainable alternatives require substantial investment—especially in vulnerable countries. Potential funding could come from public sources, international institutions, or innovative mechanisms like plastic taxes or credits. Aligning subsidies and financial flows with treaty objectives is essential, and trade measures should support rather than hinder progress. Ultimately, the article argues that aligning environmental and trade policies will be crucial to the treaty's success in curbing global plastic pollution.

[Avoiding a Trade Crisis as Countries Look to Phase Out Plastic Pollution](#)

2024

Summary: This article covers several important topics: 1) What is being done about plastic pollution? 2) How do plastic pollution policies impact global trade? 3) What plastic pollution measures are the most problematic for trade? 4) Is the multilateral trade system standing in the way of meaningful action on plastic pollution? 5) What should policy-makers consider before implementing plastic pollution measures?

[How Will a Global Plastics Treaty Impact Trade?](#) 2024

Summary: This article covers the following important topics: 1) What is the status of the global plastic talks? 2) What are the objectives of the plastics treaty? 3) What will the treaty look like? 4) Trade-related implications of bans and other restrictions 5) Implications related to product design 6) Implications related to treaty financing 7) How trade concerns can be avoided

[Tiny plastic particles emerge as environmental health threat](#) 2024

Summary: Microplastics and nanoplastics—minute plastic particles resulting from the degradation of larger plastic items—have become pervasive environmental pollutants, infiltrating ecosystems and entering the human body through ingestion and inhalation. Recent studies have detected these particles in human organs, including the brain, with concentrations increasing over time. Notably, individuals diagnosed with dementia exhibited higher levels of nanoplastics in their brain tissues, suggesting a potential link between plastic accumulation and neurological disorders.

The health implications of micro- and nanoplastic exposure are concerning. These particles can penetrate cellular barriers, leading to inflammation, oxidative stress, and cellular damage. Inhaled nanoplastics may disrupt respiratory functions, while ingestion can alter gut microbiota composition, potentially contributing to metabolic disorders. Additionally, the chemicals inherent in plastics, such as bisphenol A (BPA) and phthalates, are associated with endocrine disruption, reproductive issues, and an elevated risk of chronic diseases, including diabetes and cardiovascular conditions.

NON-OFFICIAL RESOURCES ON THE TOPIC (CONT.)

[What are microplastics?](#)

2024

Summary: Definition of microplastics and examples of where they can be found in products.

[Plastic pollution](#)

2024

Summary: Importance of plastic pollution and what can be done to address it

[What Is Ocean Bound Plastic?](#)

2024

Summary: Definition of ocean bound plastic and analysis whether it is greenwashing.

[Plastics in the Ocean](#)

2024

Summary: Explanation of how plastics enter the ocean and what are its impacts.

[Great Pacific Garbage Patch](#)

2024

Summary: This link contains an analysis of marine debris located between the West Coast of North America and Japan. The patch poses significant threats to marine life and ecosystems, disrupting food webs and leaching harmful pollutants.

[What are micro-plastics and how do they enter the marine environment?](#)

2023

Summary: Definition of microplastics and description of how they end up in oceans.

[What Is Greenwashing?](#)

2023

Summary: Definition of greenwashing. Greenwashing is the act of making false or misleading statements about the environmental benefits of a product or practice.

[How plastic pollution cleanup technology can actually harm the environment and obstruct policy progress](#)

2023

Summary: Report on clean-up technologies. Categorizes them and describes the concerns that these technologies raise. They may pose a threat to the very same ecosystems impacted by plastic. This is partly because plastic clean-up technologies do not discriminate between aquatic life, plastic and organic debris.

[Oceans littered with 171 trillion plastic pieces](#)

2023

Summary: This link contains the concentrations of microplastics in the oceans and other statistics.

[Plastic Waste Free Islands in the Mediterranean](#)

2022

Summary: Description of the project that seeks to address the problem of plastic waste leakage from island states.

NON-OFFICIAL RESOURCES ON THE TOPIC (CONT.)

[In the Ocean, It's Snowing Microplastics](#)

2022

Summary: Note by the New York Times that describes how microplastics affect marine life.

[OCEAN PLASTIC POLLUTION EXPLAINED](#)

2022

Summary: Video summarizing facts about plastic pollution, how it enters the ocean, where it goes, its impact on the environment and the actions that have been taken to reduce its impact.

[MICROPLASTICS AND LITTER IN THE ENVIRONMENT](#)

2016

Summary: Description of the ARCTIC MONITORING & ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME (AMAP) project that seeks to address the problem of plastic waste leakage from island states.

Africa

Impacts and Threats of Marine Litter in African Seas

2022

Summary: This document discusses the impacts of marine litter on the natural environment, the people and the economies of Africa.

PLASTIC POLLUTION IN AFRICA

2022

Summary: The report aims to address the lack of comprehensive information on plastic pollution in Africa. It provides an overview of the challenges and impacts of plastic pollution, identifies gaps in existing frameworks

Plastic pollution in Nigeria is poorly studied but enough is known to urge action

2022

Summary: This web page gives an overview of Nigeria's plastic problem, the gaps in research and the next steps that are needed to address this issue.

Marine-plastic pollution is growing, and Egypt is a major contributor on a global scale

2022

Summary: This article summarizes the factors that have made Egypt the biggest contributor to plastic pollution in the Arab region.

Europe

[How is Europe faring in the fight against plastic pollution?](#)

2022

Summary: This link talks about a statement made from the European Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries about single-use plastics, changing individual behaviors, and the importance of businesses being on board.

[The EU's Dirty Plastic Secret EU-Mercosur Deal Set to Boost Trade in Single-Use Plastics](#)

2022

Summary: The analysis highlights concerns over the EU-Mercosur trade agreement potentially exacerbating global plastic pollution. Despite EU bans on certain plastic items, the agreement would eliminate tariffs for EU plastic exports to South America, including banned products like single-use plastic cutlery.

[Europe's laggard -- Switzerland cannot recycle its way out of it's plastic problem](#)

2023

Summary: This web page gives an overview of Switzerland's plastic problem and summarizes existing Swiss legislation that can be applied immediately to reduce the flow of plastics.

Europe (cont.)

Slovenia and the EU have a problem with uncollected waste

2023

Summary: This article focuses on the problem caused by uncollected and mismanaged plastic waste in Slovenia and Europe more generally, global plastics production, an overview of global plastic waste management, the failure of legal regulation, plastic packaging waste generation and recycling rates from 2010-2019, plastic waste management in the EU, and plastic packaging in Slovenia from 2010-2021.

Waste prevention country profile: Denmark

2023

Summary: The Danish Government's Action Plan for Circular Economy describes the Danish targets, indicators, policies and initiatives which ranges from design and consumption to waste management, from which natural resources are recycled into new products and materials. This report includes a focus on the plastics sector.

The new plastics economy: A Danish research, innovation and business opportunity

2019

Summary: This report explores the circular economy within the plastics industry in Denmark. First, it considers the plastics waste challenge that has been caused by the lack of infrastructure and technology to manage plastic products after they can no longer be used. Second, it outlines a vision for a new plastics circular economy and areas of action needed to tackle the plastics challenge.

Asia

Plastic Pollution Policy Country Profile: Indonesia

2022

Summary: This document outlines: 1) the nature of the plastic pollution problem in Costa Rica, 2) available information about policies guiding government approaches to the plastic pollution problem in Indonesia, and 3) what, if any, information exists about the effectiveness of these policy approaches.

The plastic waste problem in Malaysia: management, recycling and disposal of local and global plastic waste

2021

Summary: This paper outlines the state of plastic waste production and management in Malaysia as of 2021. It presents information on the human and ecological risks of plastic waste in the country (i.e. microplastics, landfill, incineration), outlines key plastic waste management policy initiatives (including plastics alternatives such as biodegradable plastics) and highlights key obstacles in successfully managing plastic waste pollution.

ADDRESSING MARINE PLASTIC POLLUTION IN ASIA

2020

Summary: This link discusses Asian governments developing national-level legislative or regulatory measures to address this issue.

North America

Canada Zero Plastic Waste Agenda

2025

Summary: Canada is leading efforts to reduce plastic pollution through a range of national and international initiatives. Domestically, it launched the Ocean Plastics Charter and the Canada-wide Strategy on Zero Plastic Waste, supported by a detailed Action Plan. These initiatives promote a circular economy approach, regulatory action, sustainable government operations, innovation, and science-based decision-making. Key programs include the Canadian Plastics Innovation Challenges, research under Canada's Plastics Science Agenda, and public engagement through initiatives like the Zero Plastic Waste Initiative and Ghost Gear Fund.

Internationally, Canada supports a global treaty on plastic pollution and has pledged over \$100 million to help developing countries manage plastic waste and protect marine environments.

Plastic Pollution in North American Cities

2023

Summary: This link discusses the growing concern of plastic pollution in North American cities, highlighting the significant contributions these urban areas make to the global plastic waste crisis.

HOW IS OCEAN PLASTIC IMPACTING THE SHORELINE AND BEACHES OF NORTH AMERICA?

2023

Summary: This link describes how plastic pollution is affecting beaches and shores in North America.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Plastic Pollution Policy Country Profile: Costa Rica

2022

Summary: This document outlines: 1) the nature of the plastic pollution problem in Costa Rica, 2) available information about policies guiding government approaches to the plastic pollution problem in Costa Rica, and 3) what, if any, information exists about the effectiveness of these policy approaches.

No More Plastics – How Belize Backed Its Pledge To Reduce Single-Use Plastic

2022

Summary: This article summarizes Belize's efforts to ban single use plastics.
