

Plastics Treaty

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'Most significant environmental deal since Paris':
UN agrees on landmark plastic pollution treaty

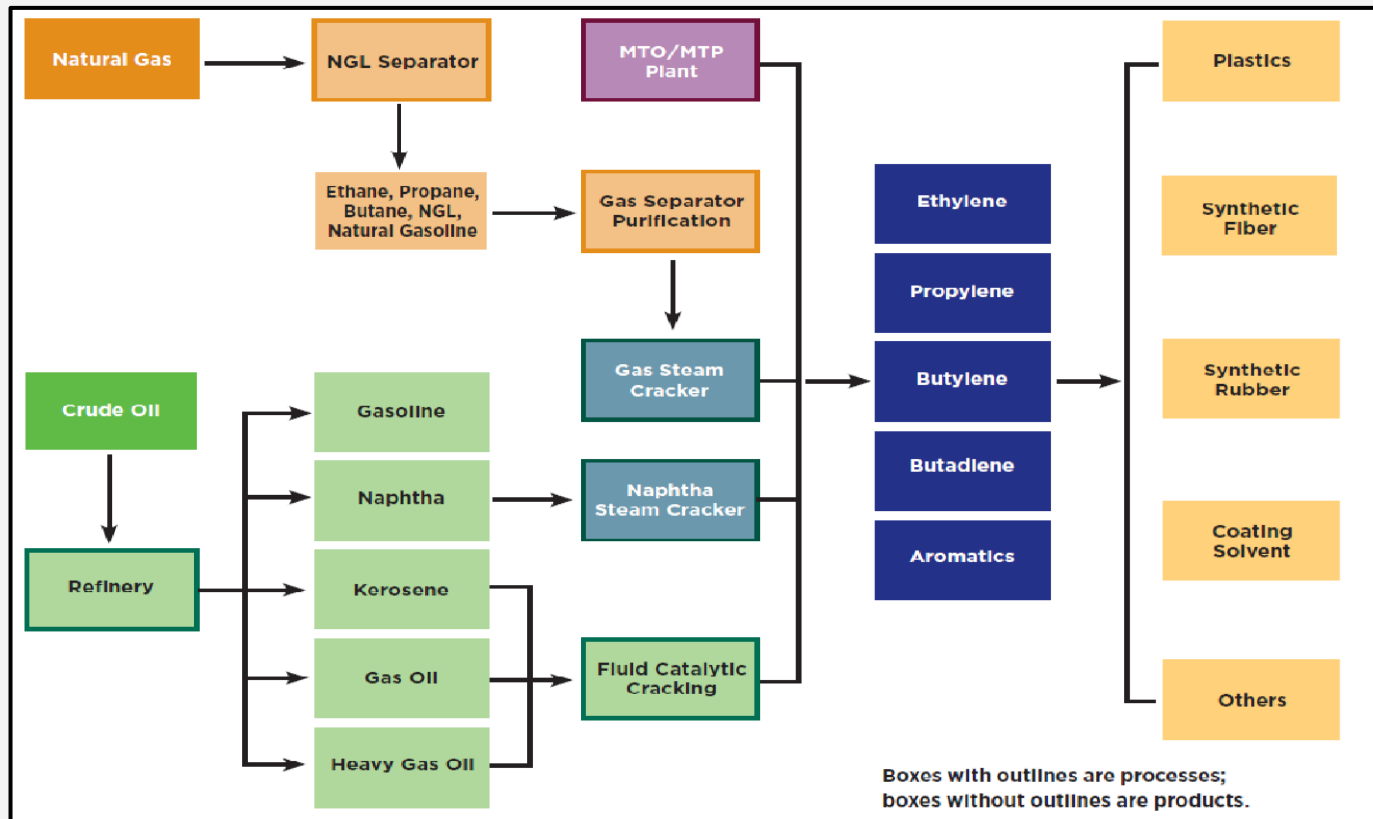


Delegates hug at the Fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 5) after negotiating a global plastic treaty. - Copyright: AFP



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99% of plastic is made from chemicals sourced from fossil fuels



Plastic pollution

A Common Concern of Humankind

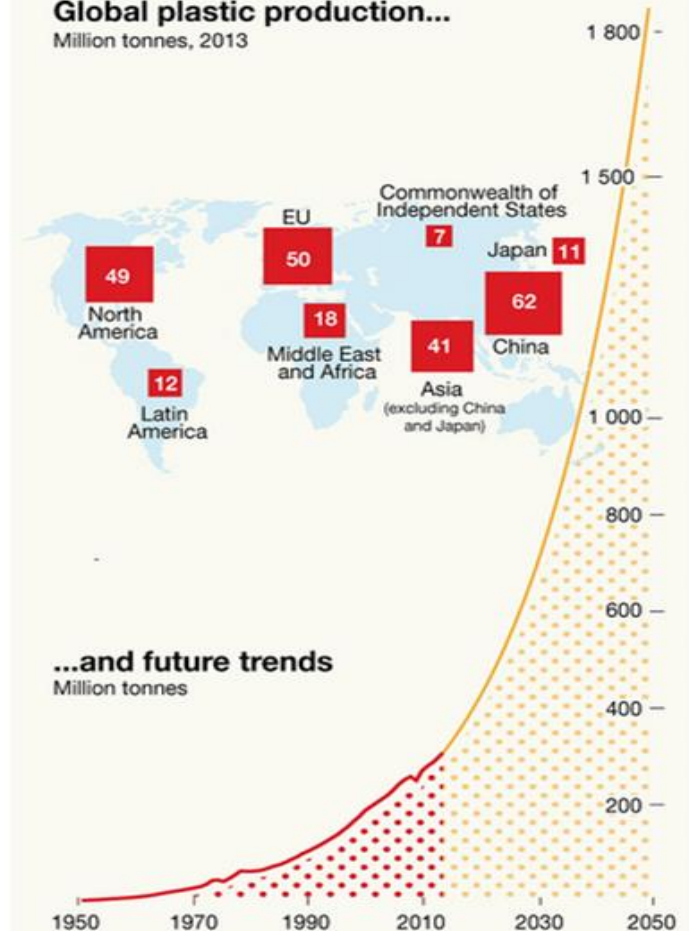
- The plastic crisis is a **common concern of humankind**
- The plastic crisis **transboundary & global in scope**
- There is a critical **international trade angle**, because plastics represent an important portion of products traded internationally (in volume & value).
- The crisis has an **environmental, climate, social & human rights dimensions**.
- A legally binding agreement will require trade related provisions within it, including **trade controls & restrictions**.

*“By 2050, the greenhouse gas emissions from plastic could reach over 56 gigatons, which represents **10 to 13 percent of the entire remaining carbon budget.**”*

CIEL's report on *Climate and Plastics*

Global plastic production...

Million tonnes, 2013



Source: Ryan, A Brief History of Marine Litter Research, in M. Bergmann, L. Gutow, M. Klages (Eds.), Marine Anthropogenic Litter, Berlin Springer, 2015; Plastics Europe

A UN Resolution to end plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument

“develop an international **legally binding instrument** on plastic pollution, **including in the marine environment**”

“which could include both **binding and voluntary approaches**, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the **full life cycle of plastic**”

“taking into account, among other things, **the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development**, as well as **national circumstances and capabilities**”

UNITED
NATIONS



United Nations
Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment
Programme

United Nations Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment Programme
Fifth session
Nairobi (hybrid), 22–26 February 2021
and 28 February–2 March 2022

Draft resolution

End plastic pollution: Towards an international legally binding instrument^{*}

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Noting with concern that the high and rapidly increasing levels of plastic pollution represent a serious environmental problem at a global scale, negatively impacting the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development,

Recognizing that plastic pollution includes microplastics,

Further noting with concern the specific impacts of plastic pollution on the marine environment,

Further noting that plastic pollution, in marine and other environments, can be of a transboundary nature and needs to be tackled, together with its impacts through a full lifecycle approach taking into account national circumstances and capabilities,

Reaffirming the United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, by which the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Reaffirming also the principles of the Rio Declaration on environment and development adopted in Rio de Janeiro in 1992,

Stressing the urgent need to strengthen the science-policy interface at all levels, improve understanding of the global impact of plastic pollution on the environment, and promote effective and progressive actions at the local, regional and global level, recognizing the important role of plastics for society,

Recalling United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions 1/6, 2/11, 3/7, 4/6, 4/7 and 4/9 and affirming the urgent need to strengthen global coordination, cooperation and governance to take immediate actions towards the long-term elimination of plastic pollution, in marine and other environments, and of avoiding detriment from plastic pollution to ecosystems and the human activities dependent on them,

Recognizing the wide range of approaches, sustainable alternatives and technologies to address the full life-cycle of plastics further highlighting the need for enhanced international collaboration to

^{*} The present text is an advance version and has not been formally edited.

EP

UNEP/EA.5/L.23/Rev.1

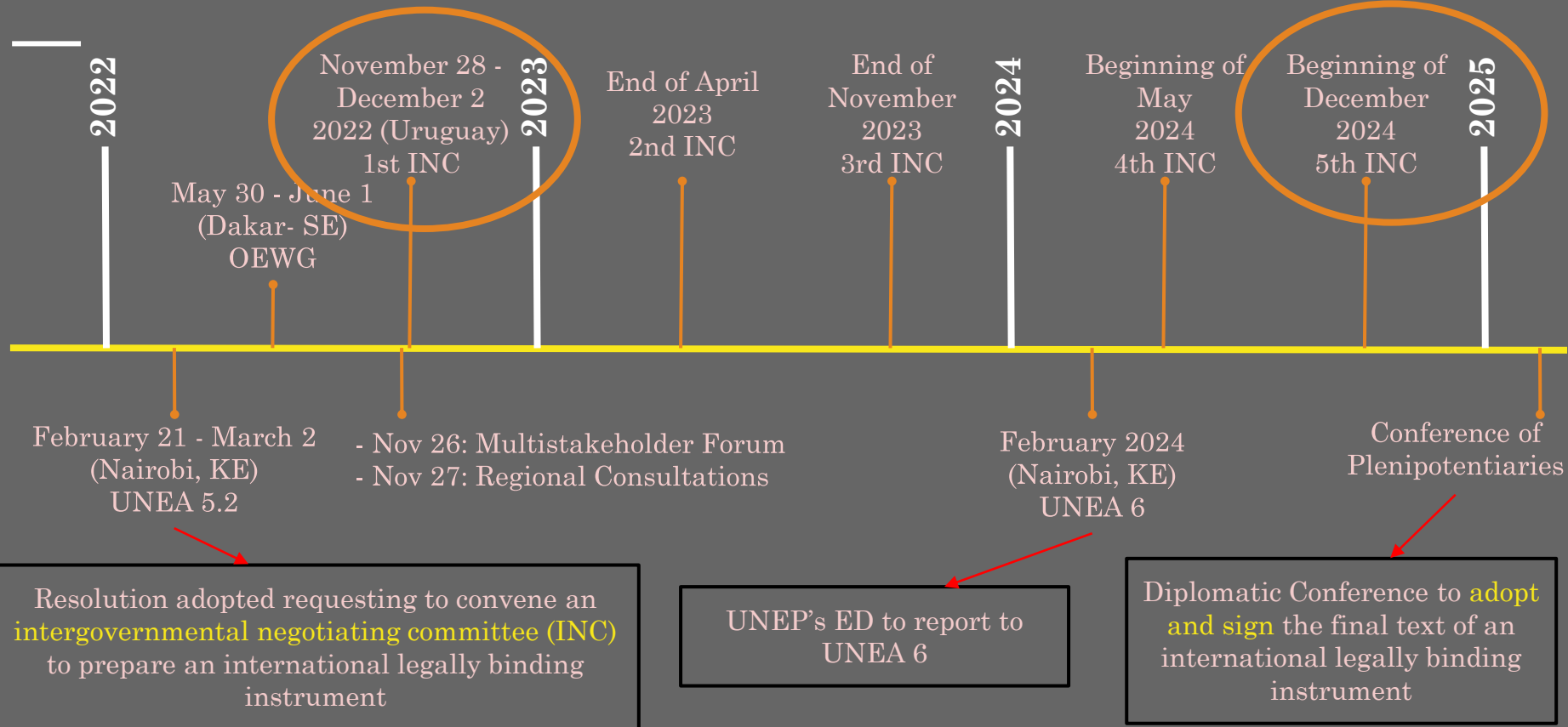
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Current timeline



What will be covered?



What do we need to do?

2 key elements



REDUCE GROWTH IN PLASTIC PRODUCTION

**Eliminate avoidable plastic use and
expand reuse and refill systems.**



And on international trade?

Non trade provisions that have an impact on trade	Trade provisions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Definitions,○ Standards,○ Labelling,○ Design○ Technology transfer etc.	<p>The use of trade related measures within MEAs may be the most effective way to ensure that environmental objectives are achieved.</p> <p>To the date, ~20 MEAs include trade provisions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Trade restrictions and bans for certain types of polymers, additives, and plastic products between Parties and also between Parties and non-Parties;○ Permit requirements and declaration of imports and exports of polymers, additives, and plastic products in addition to monitoring and reporting;○ Possibility for States to take stricter domestic measures.

Thank you !

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