

SUMMARY INC MINISTERIAL CONSULTATION MEETING

25 Sept 2024

Canada and Norway deeply appreciate your active participation in the Ministerial Consultation of 25 September 2024. Recognizing that plastic pollution is a global problem requiring urgent attention, we remain committed to the finalization of an ambitious and effective global agreement with control measures across the full lifecycle, by the end of INC-5. As such, this meeting aimed to bring conversations up to the political level, deepening understanding of national priorities and positions on key negotiating issues, determining areas of convergence and divergence, and bridging existing gaps.

Please see below the brief summary of the outcomes as prepared by the co-facilitators, which will serve to both inform the INC Chair and guide any future Informal Ministerial Consultations.

We acknowledge and appreciate the excellent work of the co-facilitators in guiding this discussion:

1. **Production and Consumption of Plastics:**
 - i. H.E Dr. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment of Egypt
 - ii. H.E Juan Carlos Monterrey, Special Envoy for Climate of Panama

2. **Products, Chemicals, and Waste:**
 - i. H.E Sir Molwyn Joseph Minister of Health, Wellness & The Environment of Antigua and Barbuda
 - ii. H.E Fatma Varank, Deputy Minister of Environment and Urbanization of Türkiye

3. **Means of Implementation:**
 - i. H.E Ophelia Mensah, Minister and the Director, Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation of Ghana
 - ii. H.E Anne Beathe Tvinnereim, Minister of International Development of Norway

Critical topic	Summary
Production and consumption of plastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many agree that the treaty must enable sustainable consumption and production of plastics to achieve the goal of ending plastic pollution and fulfill the mandate set out in the UNEA 5/14 resolution, while a small group views production as out of scope. • Most view that a global aspirational goal/binding target to reduce production of primary plastic polymers to sustainable levels is needed in order to end plastic pollution, recognizing that such levels need to be science-based. • Few were of the view that the treaty should be in line with the goals of the Paris agreement. • Some maintain that global aspirational goal/binding target should be voluntary and rooted in Common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities as well as equity. • Others were against global targets and were of the view that targets should be set domestically based on national circumstances. • Most agree to commitment to take regulatory action to reduce supply and demand of primary plastics, while some highlighted specific measures including taxes and removal of subsidies. • Many highlight that the treaty should provide for international standards and guidelines which would guide local implementation based on national circumstances. • The large majority agrees to commit to a common reporting framework for plastics. While many agree the reporting should include production, imports and exports, starting from a baseline year, some noted need to balance with confidential business information. • Many agree that a decision on the format for reporting, for example the specific polymer types to be reported, quantities and possible uses, could be prepared at a later stage. • The large majority agree to committing to report on national measures taken to improve sustainable production and consumption of plastics, including measures to reduce supply, and their effectiveness. • Some highlighted the need to allow developing countries time to transition.

Products, chemicals and waste

- We heard loud and clear the importance to land the legally binding global agreement at INC-5 in Busan, Republic of Korea and the scale of the crisis of the plastic pollution.
- There is broad convergence that plastic products and chemicals found in plastic products must be addressed in the treaty as global core measures with associated restriction when appropriate (problematic, no essential use and have available substitution).
- Ministers also called for the treaty to take into account existing Multilateral Environmental Agreements.
- Many highlighted the importance of setting global criteria and approaches, including initial lists in annexes, for the national or global identification with a commitment to restricting these products and chemicals.
- Many highlighted the need for a global and science-based approach to plastic products and/or chemicals in plastics in addition to the need for the treaty to be strengthened over time.
- Ministers highlighted that the “make, consume and throw” mentality needs to switch to a “safe, circular economy” approach. Better product design was highlighted as a solution to increase recyclability, including through improved durability reuse and recycling, and transparency through reporting requirements related to chemicals included and appropriate labeling.
- Better waste management, infrastructure and systems, including extended producer responsibility was recognized to be important elements to be established by the treaty, while national circumstances need to be taken into account.

Means of Implementation

- We heard broad support for the adoption of a financial mechanism for the instrument. Ministers see it as key for the treaty.
- There is divergence on optimal choice of fund, with much support both for new fund inspired by that of the Montreal protocol, and for existing mechanism, the GEF.
- We noted significant convergence on desirable elements across fund options;
 - Need for significant and predictable public grant funding, that are accessible, transparent and flexible
 - Early support for enabling activities for implementation
 - Easy access to support while maintaining safeguards
 - Effective capacity-building and more programmatic approaches
- Ministers underlined role of ODA to help shift actions towards implementation, while other models required for waste treatment infrastructure.
- There was considerable interest in financial mechanism support for research and innovation for alternatives to plastic use and production.
- Ministers desired clarity in the instrument on how treaty will foster partnerships to exchange best practices, strategies, policies and technologies. South south cooperation was mentioned.
- Many underlined that Parties shall support, within their respective capabilities, the financial mechanism and capacity-building.
- Many emphasized requirement for Parties to take regulatory action to create enabling environment and unlock investment in solutions.
- Many felt that the treaty should champion EPR and foster suitable adaptation of such schemes. National fees were also considered effective in raising finance for waste management.
- There was convergence on need for all sources of finance, domestic and international, public and private.
- Ministers recalled that the costs of not having an agreement are astronomical and much higher than estimates for implementation. Finance should primarily flow from those benefitting from producing and putting products on the markets.
- Many emphasized need to align global financial flows to address root causes of plastic pollution, and make business internalize cost of change rather than sending bill to governments.
- Some recommended addressing human behaviour and consumer choices.
- Many underlined that joint solutions to more valuable plastics upstream will support more valid waste collection systems downstream in poor countries.