



Environment and
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Ambiente



Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
República Dominicana



Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation,
Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection



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the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia,
the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Dominican Republic,
the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation of Ghana and
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of Germany*

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Concept Note

The negotiations to establish an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution (ILBI), including in the marine environment, have been conducted in a constructive and collaborative spirit towards consensus-building. Yet after four sessions of negotiations there remain diverging views on many significant issues. The INC Chair has taken steps to realign the process with a view to building a new starting point for the negotiations drawing from the previous exchanges and outcomes.

Some of the remaining open items are of highly political nature, where the future process may benefit from guidance by decision-makers without prejudicing the negotiations to be concluded at fifth INC. This ministerial conference is intended to provide such advice in order to overcome divides and its outcome to be a non-negotiated summary of the Co-Host and Co-Facilitators as an informal input supporting the further steps.

UNEA Resolution 5/14 aims to tackle the full life-cycle of plastic while definitions differ where the life-cycle approach should start. Views range from sourcing, polymerisation, manufacturing to transition to waste and differ in the necessity of potential interventions including their impacts on environment and health as well as economy and livelihoods. We aim to find a comprehensive joint approach by better understanding and reflecting each Party's views and needs.

The current landscape of existing MEA and national legislation already addresses some of the focus areas of the ILBI. But gaps remain and there is need for harmonization in order to provide a level playing field. As starting points and needs vary due to specific national circumstances, there currently is different emphasis to the upstream or downstream part of the life-cycle and their respective contribution to end plastic pollution.

The need for a financial mechanism for the treaty is widely recognized, but there is disagreement on its design, role and functions considering the wider financial landscape. Further there is need to develop on which on principles the support for developing countries, especially those most in need, is resting and whether it is the primary or only source of financial support. In addition the contribution of plastic to the generation of wealth or its role in economic development is being discussed as well as the accountability of plastic pollutin.

For those areas it will be vital to define the necessary prerequisites for global and national implementation of the agreed provisions as well as actions and deliverables after conclusion of the negotiations. Considering a sequenced approach follow-ups should be clearly defined and anchored in the future agreement.

For further information please refer to <https://conferencemarinelitterplasticpollution.org/> or for questions to marius.flintoaca@giz.de or roxana.mocanu@giz.de.