

Engage With Us Prepare for the Negotiations

Going forward on a Global Plastics Treaty

The SWITCH-Asia Policy Support Component is committed to supporting the International Legally Binding Instrument (ILBI) to end plastic pollution. This project brief gives you all the information needed on our offer to you.

CONTEXT

The Ongoing Negotiation Process

Current global plastic production and consumption patterns, along with their growth trajectory, are unsustainable. A systemic shift toward circularity is necessary to mitigate the environmental and human health impacts. This is particularly crucial in light of the climate commitments made by states in the Paris Agreement.

In March 2022, at the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2), a historic resolution was adopted to develop an international legally binding instrument (ILBI) on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

[The resolution \(5/14\)](#) requested the Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) to convene an **Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC)** to develop the ILBI, also referred to as “the instrument” or “the Plastics Treaty”, which is to be based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastics, including their production, design and disposal.

The INC began its work during the second half of 2022, with the ambition to complete the negotiations by the end of 2024. The [first session](#) of the INC (INC-1) took place in Punta del Este, Uruguay from 28 November to 2 December 2022, followed by a [second session](#) (INC-2) in Paris, France from 29

May to 2 June 2023. The [third session](#) (INC-3) is now scheduled from **13 to 19 November 2023** at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya.

GETTING READY!

Preparing for the upcoming Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) Sessions

The [Plastics Governance Engagement](#) has been launched in 2023 by the European Union (EU) funded [SWITCH-Asia Programme](#) with the aim to provide countries in the Asia-Pacific region with the technical knowledge and advisory support to develop their perspectives and raise awareness about the importance of national involvement in the Plastics Treaty negotiations.

In particular, the engagement seeks to:



Raise awareness



Engage stakeholders on the plastics issue as well as the treaty negotiations



Assess countries' needs with regards to combating plastics pollution



Strengthen and build capacities to actively participate in and contribute to the negotiations



Develop a shared understanding on a comprehensive life-cycle and circular approach to plastic pollution

INTERESTED IN RECEIVING OUR SUPPORT?

The technical support the SWITCH-Asia PSC can provide for the preparation of upcoming Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) Sessions is targeted to the needs of your country delegation.

Our technical experts are well versed in the processes and technicalities of the negotiations and ready to support you.

The experts first assess your country's specific needs. On this basis, they strategise, together with you, on details of their further support.

Below are just some of their potential activities:

- Share existing and evolving findings from our studies on the INC process;
- Undertake specific research on issues of which you would like to get a better understanding (e.g., by analysing submissions from other countries);
- Organise regional dialogues or build a platform for exchange to liaise with other countries and stakeholders in the region, to better understand their interests and positions, and to explore possible coalitions with like-minded countries and stakeholders;
- Bring you together with focal points from the European Union, to enable an exchange of views and a mutual understanding.

Meet our experts



PER-OLOF BUSCH

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Per-Olof Busch is an Expert for the SWITCH-Asia Policy Support Component. He is also a Senior Researcher at adelphi, a leading and independent think-and-do tank in Europe for climate, environment and development. He leads projects on national and international environmental governance. Currently, his main topics of interest include: plastic pollution, circular economy and the 2030 Agenda. Per-Olof has published studies and provided advice on several topics related to the global agreement on plastic pollution, namely its necessity and possible design; options to mobilise international and domestic financial resources from public and private actors; design features of a global science-policy interface on plastic pollution; economic opportunities for the upstream sector in the plastics life-cycle; and challenges, needs and opportunities of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the context of a global plastics agreement. He has also provided inputs to and co-led stakeholder consultations in Asian countries with the aim to identify challenges, opportunities, solutions and common interests in the context of a global plastics agreement.



MARO LUISA SCHULTE

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Maro Luisa Schulte is an Expert for the SWITCH-Asia Policy Support Component. She is an Advisor at adelphi, where she leads and supports projects in the broader thematic area of circular economy. She is particularly passionate about international cooperation and negotiations, with a focus on international chemicals- and plastics governance. While she prepares analyses of different aspects of these global governance processes and their institutional arrangements, she also develops and organises dialogue formats and exchange platforms at the regional, national and international level to ensure broader stakeholder participation and engagement in these processes. At international negotiations, Maro Luisa also provides direct support to delegations, e.g. by collating ad hoc background research and analyses and by facilitating exchanges among different delegations and stakeholders.

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